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**Identification of an altered matrix signature in kidney ageing and disease**

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## Abstract

**Background:** Accumulation of extracellular matrix in organs and tissues is a feature of both ageing and disease. In the kidney, glomerulosclerosis and tubulointerstitial fibrosis accompany the decline in organ function, which is irretrievable with current therapies leading to inevitable kidney failure. Whilst histological and ultrastructural patterns of excess matrix form the basis of human disease classifications, the comprehensive molecular resolution of abnormal matrix is lacking. **Methods:** Using mass spectrometry-based proteomics we resolved matrix composition over age in mouse models of kidney disease. We compared the changes in mice with a global characterization of human kidney matrix during ageing and to existing kidney disease datasets to identify common molecular features. **Results:** We found that ultrastructural changes in basement membranes are associated with altered cell adhesion and metabolic processes and with distinct matrix proteomes during ageing and kidney disease progression in mice. Within the altered matrix, we observed a reduction in basement membrane components (laminins, type IV collagen, type XVIII collagen) and a corresponding increase in interstitial matrix proteins (collagens I, III, VI, XV, fibrinogens and nephronectin) and this pattern was also seen in human kidney ageing. Indeed, this signature of matrix proteins was consistently modulated across all age and disease comparisons and the increase in interstitial matrix was also observed in human kidney disease datasets. **Conclusions:** This study provides deep molecular resolution of matrix accumulation in kidney ageing and disease and identifies a common signature of proteins that provides insight into mechanisms of response to kidney injury and repair.

**Introduction**

Extracellular matrix (ECM) is organized as basement membranes, which support continuous layers of cells, or as looser interstitial matrix (1). In addition to providing a scaffold ECM directs organ shape and sequesters growth factors and enzymes for controlled outside-in signalling (2). This extracellular environment is complex and dynamic with over 1000 matrisome proteins annotated (3). Matrix synthesis and turnover requires tight regulation for the maintenance of organ function, and matrix accumulation is associated with a wide spectrum of human disease. 45% of deaths in the Western world have been associated with organ fibrosis (4). Thus, understanding the drivers of matrix accumulation is key to identifying strategies to prolong organ survival.

Excess matrix is seen across a wide spectrum of pathology and is incorporated into the histological and ultrastructural descriptions of many diseases (5). In the kidney, glomerulosclerosis is feature of ageing and glomerular disease (6) and tubulointerstitial fibrosis is seen with both primary tubular disease and as a consequence of glomerular disease (7, 8), yet the comprehensive molecular definition of altered matrix is limited. The use of proteomics to define global protein composition has improved the resolution of matrix complexity and this includes the human glomerular matrisome, which contains over 140 structural and regulatory components (9, 10). Proteomic studies in kidney disease have also revealed changes in matrix composition (11, 12) but these have been limited by sample volume and have not utilized matrix enrichment strategies, which improve resolution (13).

Along the nephron there is distinct matrix composition within basement membranes and interstitial matrices (14). Basement membranes underly parietal epithelial cells, separate endothelial cells from overlying podocytes, provide a scaffold for tubular epithelial cells and form an integral component of blood vessel walls in the kidney. Interstitial matrices include the mesangial matrix and the loose tubulointerstitial matrix. The glomerular and tubular segments of the nephron have distinct functions and their differential matrix composition is likely to reflect their underlying functions including filtration and reabsorption. One example of structure supporting function is the triple helix of type IV collagen protomers, which may resist mechanical load (15) and could explain the distinct localisation of collagen IV isoforms along the nephron.

Here we performed deep proteomic profiling to define global changes in kidney matrix and to identify common components and pathways. In mouse models of genetic defects in collagen IV we found distinct matrix structural abnormalities associated with altered cell adhesion and

metabolic processes and a signature of abnormal matrix composition. In young and aged human kidneys and existing kidney disease datasets we identified a similar signature of altered matrix. Broadly we observed a reduction in basement membrane components and an increase in interstitial matrix proteins in both mouse models and human tissue.

## Methods

**Antibodies:** Primary antibodies were diluted in a blocking buffer (1% donkey serum, 2% BSA, 0.1% Triton-X 100 in PBS). Primary antibodies used were against type VI collagen (ab6588, abcam) at 1/100 dilution and 1/500 dilution for STORM imaging, type IV collagen chains:  $\alpha 1$ ,  $\alpha 2$ ,  $\alpha 3$ ,  $\alpha 4$ ,  $\alpha 5$  and  $\alpha 6$  (7070, 7071, 7076, 7073, 7077, and 7074, respectively, Chondrex, Washington, USA) at 1/200 dilution, type I collagen (OARAO2579, Gentaur, Kapenhout, Belgium) at 1/100 dilution, podocin ab50339 (Abcam) at 1/400 dilution, fibulin-1 (sc-25281; Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Dallas, USA) at 1/100 dilution, nidogen/entactin antibody (MAB1946, ELM1, Merck, Germany) at 1/100 dilution, laminin beta 2 (ab210956, abcam) at 1/100 dilution, Tinag (ab67614, abcam) at 1/100 dilution, integrin beta1 (BD Pharmigen, clone 9EG7) at 1/500. Secondary antibodies conjugated to Alexa Fluor 488 or 594 (Life Technologies) were used for immunofluorescence.

**Mice:** We used *Col4a1*<sup>+/SVC</sup> mice, which carry a point mutation causing an amino acid substitution (G1064D) (16). These mice were on a BL6/C57 background, we used littermate controls, male mice for phenotypic consistency and n=3 mice from each group for proteomic analysis. *Col4a3*<sup>-/-</sup> mice were generated as described (17). In brief, the first three exons of the COOH-terminal (NC1) domain of collagen- $\alpha 3$ (IV) chain were deleted, causing absence of collagen- $\alpha 3$ (IV) protein. *Col4a5*<sup>-/-</sup> mice were obtained from the International Mouse Phenotyping Consortium (18). The line was generated by deletion of the critical exon 36 resulting in the absence of the collagen- $\alpha 5$ (IV) protein with the published allele map (19). *Col4a3*<sup>-/-</sup> and *Col4a5*<sup>-/-</sup> mice were on a BL6/C57 background, we used littermate controls, male mice for phenotypic consistency and we used n=5 mice from each group for proteomic analysis. All experiments were performed in compliance with the ASPA regulations of the UK Home Office.

**Glomerular isolation from mice** Cortical tissue was dissected from frozen-thawed, kidney placed in a glass dish and cut into small pieces ( $\leq 1\text{mm}^3$ ) as previously (9). Tissue pieces were washed three times with PBS. Tissue pieces were transferred onto a 100  $\mu\text{m}$  cell strainer (Falcon) and mechanically disintegrated. PBS was added and flow through was collected. The resulting tissue solution was filtered through a 70  $\mu\text{m}$  cell strainer (Falcon). Glomeruli were

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caught on the 70 µm cell strainer. The cell strainer was inverted and caught glomeruli were washed off the sieve and collected in a container.

**Human kidney:** Human kidneys (n=6) anatomically unsuitable for transplantation and with no recorded comorbidities, were collected under ethical approval [Regional Ethics Committee approval 05/Q0508/6 (University College London) and 06/Q1406/38 (Manchester)]. Samples were grouped into young (15, 29, 37 years) and aged (61, 67, 69 years) with n=3 per group. 5 of the 6 kidneys were from male donors and the sex of the 67 year old kidney was not recorded. Kidney biopsy sections from a male patient presenting at age 14 years with chronic kidney disease stage 3 due to autosomal recessive (*COL4A3*) Alport syndrome, and control kidney tissue (non-affected tissue of tumor nephrectomy) were also used with ethical approval 06/Q1406/38 (Manchester).

**Glomerular and tubulointerstitial isolation from human kidney:** Cortical tissue (2g) was dissected from frozen-thawed kidney placed in a glass dish and cut into small pieces ( $\leq 1\text{mm}^3$ ) as previously (9). Graded sieves 250µm, 150µm and 106µm were assembled with the 250µm sieve at the top and placed on a collection container. Tissue pieces were transferred onto the largest sieve in 5ml ice-cold PBS (without calcium and magnesium). The plunger from a 10ml syringe was used to press the sample through the sieves. Fragments were washed through the sieves with 60-100ml of ice-cold PBS. Glomeruli were retained on 150µm and 106µm sieves and were collected by inverting the sieves and washing with 20ml ice-cold PBS. Cortical tubulointerstitial (TI) fragments were retrieved from the collection container. The glomeruli and TI samples were centrifuged at 3,000xg for 3 minutes at 4°C then washed 3 times by centrifugation and resuspension in 10ml ice-cold PBS. After the final wash, samples were resuspended in 5ml PBS and aliquoted into five 1ml aliquots. One aliquot from each sample was viewed under a light microscope to confirm the separation of glomeruli and TI tissue. One aliquot was frozen at -20°C for ECM enrichment and the remainder stored at - 80°C.

**Matrix enrichment:** Samples stored at -20°C were defrosted at room temperature, homogenized using a 21G needle and 2ml syringe and centrifuged at 14,000xg for 5 minutes at room temperature. Ice-cold buffer solution 1 (500µl; 10mM Tris, 150mM sodium chloride, 25mM EDTA, 1% (v/v) Triton X-100, 25µg/ml leupeptin, 25µg/ml aprotinin, 0.5mM 4-(2-Aminoethyl)benzenesulfonyl fluoride hydrochloride (AEBSF)) was added to the pellet and samples incubated on ice for 1 hour. Samples were centrifuged at 14,000xg for 10 minutes at 4°C, the supernatant was collected and mixed with 125µl recovery buffer (15% (w/v) SDS, 100mM 1,4-dithiothreitol (DTT), 200mM Tris, 30% (v/v) glycerol), 0.01% Bromophenol blue).

This sample was designated soluble fraction 1 (most of the cellular compartment) and stored at -80°C. The pellet was resuspended in 500µl ice-cold buffer solution 2 (20mM NH<sub>4</sub>OH, 0.5% (v/v) Triton X-100) and incubated on ice for 1 hour. Samples were centrifuged at 14,000 x g for 10 minutes at 4°C, the supernatant collected and designated soluble fraction 2. The pellet was resuspended in 500µl PBS with DNase I (25µg/ml) and incubated for 30 minutes at room temperature. Samples were centrifuged at 14,000xg for 10 minutes at 4°C, the supernatant collected as soluble fraction 3. The final pellet was resuspended in a sample buffer and incubated for 10 minutes at 95°C to generate the ECM-enriched fraction.

**Mass spectrometry data acquisition:** Following SDS–PAGE, gel lanes were sliced and subjected to in-gel digestion with trypsin (20) with modifications (21). Peptide samples were analyzed by liquid chromatography (LC)-tandem MS using a nanoACQUITY UltraPerformance LC system (Waters) coupled online to an LTQ Velos mass spectrometer (Thermo Fisher Scientific) or using an UltiMate 3000 Rapid Separation LC system (Thermo Fisher Scientific) coupled online to an Orbitrap Elite mass spectrometer (Thermo Fisher Scientific). Peptides were concentrated and desalted on a Symmetry C18 preparative column (20 mm × 180 µm, 5-µm particle size; Waters) and separated on a bridged ethyl hybrid C18 analytical column (250 mm × 75 µm, 1.7-µm particle size; Waters) using a 45-min linear gradient from 1% to 25% or 8%–33% (v/v) acetonitrile in 0.1% (v/v) formic acid at a flow rate of 200 nl min<sup>-1</sup>. Peptides were selected for fragmentation automatically by data-dependent analysis.

**Mass spectrometry identifications:** Tandem mass spectra were extracted using extract\_msn (Thermo Fisher Scientific) executed in Mascot Daemon (version 2.5.1; Matrix Science). Peak list files were searched against a modified version of the Uniprot mouse database (April 2016 database selected for *Mus musculus*) for mouse datasets, or Uniprot human database (November 2015 database selected for *Homo Sapiens*) for human datasets. Carbamidomethylation of cysteine was set as a fixed modification; oxidation of methionine and hydroxylation of proline and lysine were allowed as variable modifications. Only tryptic peptides were considered, with up to one missed cleavage permitted. Monoisotopic precursor mass values were used, and only doubly and triply charged precursor ions were considered. Mass tolerances for precursor and fragment ions were 5 ppm and 0.5 Da, respectively.

**Mass spectrometry quantification:** Relative protein abundance was calculated using peptide intensity. Orbitrap MS data were entered into Progenesis LC-MS (Non Linear Dynamics Ltd) and automatically aligned. Spectra were extracted using extract\_msn executed

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in Mascot Daemon (version 2.5.1; Matrix Science) and imported back into Progenesis LC-MS to acquire intensity data. Alignment of chromatograms was carried out using the automatic alignment algorithm, followed by manual validation and adjustment of the aligned chromatograms. All features were used for peptide identifications. Progenesis LC-MS created the peak list file that was exported and searched in Mascot. Protein abundance was inferred using Hi-N with the three most abundant peptides being used (22). Peptide and protein data were then exported from Progenesis LC-MS as.csv files to be analysed in Excel (Microsoft). Proteins identified by 1 unique peptide and a Mascot score indicating a <5% false discovery rate, were considered to be part of the definition of the human tubulointerstitial matrisome. The data was further filtered to include only proteins present in 2 out of 3 tubulointerstitial samples in a specific age group. Proteins identified by 3 unique peptides and a Mascot score indicating <5% false discovery rate were considered for quantitative analysis. Protein abundance was inferred from normalized peptide intensities using the 3 most abundant unique Hi-N peptides setting in Progenesis. Protein grouping was employed to resolve conflicts. Group protein abundances were compared across samples using ANOVA with post-hoc Bonferroni. To enable Gene Ontology lists with sufficiently large numbers of proteins in all comparisons, proteins with  $p < 0.1$  and 1.4 fold increased or decreased abundance were taken forward for further analysis.

**Protein interaction network analysis:** Protein interaction network analysis was performed using Cytoscape (version 3.7.2). Matrisome proteins were selected from the Matrisome Project (3) and proteins identified in at least two biological replicates were mapped onto a merged human, mouse and rat interactome. This was built from the PICKLE 2.5 (released on November 15 2019) (based on IntAct release 227/2019-11-04, BioGRID release 3.5.178, DIP release 20170205 and HPRD release 9) database merged with a matrix protein specific interactome Protein Interaction Network Analysis platform Homo sapiens network (release date, December 10, 2012), Mus musculus network (release date, December 10, 2012) and the Rattus norvegicus network (release date, December 10, 2012), the ECM interactions database MatrixDB (release date, April 20, 2012), and a literature-curated database of integrin-based adhesion-associated proteins (23). For networks where enrichment/fold change is presented, Progenesis LC-MS normalized intensity data were used. Networks were manually grouped.

**Data analysis:** Functional enrichment analysis was performed using DAVID (version 6.7). Keywords with fold enrichment  $\geq 1.5$ , Bonferroni-corrected  $p$  value  $< 0.05$ , EASE score (modified Fisher's exact test)  $< 0.05$  and at least two proteins per keyword were considered



significantly overrepresented. **Enrichment maps were generated using all changed proteins detected,  $p < 0.1$ -fold change at least  $> 1.4$ .** Enrichment maps were clustered using the clusterMaker app with MCL tuning, granularity parameter 2.5. Principal component analysis was performed using MATLAB (version R2019a; MathWorks). Hierarchically clustered heat maps were generated on the basis of uncentred Euclidean complete linkage clustering in MultiExperiment Viewer (version 4.8.1). For clustered heat maps where Z-score or fold change is presented, Progenesis LC-MS normalized intensity data were used.

**Nephroseq analysis:** Nephroseq v5 was used for analysis. Signature matrix proteins were searched for their fold change in gene expression in disease datasets compared to associated control samples. The following filters were applied: tissue type; glomeruli and analysis type; disease versus control analyses. Microarray data were extracted with the p-value selection: all and fold change: all. The primary data is shown in **S.Table 4. Figure 8E** shows data which met the following criteria: p-value  $< 0.05$ , FC =  $\pm 1.5$ , these are highlighted in orange in **S.Table 4**. Data is shown as box and whiskers plots displaying all data points. Values below every plot indicates the number of datasets that a transcript was detected out of all analysed datasets (21 datasets). Data from the following datasets were extracted: **Berthier Lupus Glom**; analysis: Lupus Nephritis vs. Healthy Living Donor (24), **Hodgin Diabetes Mouse Glom**, analyses; Diabetic Nephropathy vs. Non-Diabetic Kidney (mouse model db/db C57BLKS), Diabetic Nephropathy vs. Non-Diabetic Kidney (Mouse Model DBA/2), Diabetic Nephropathy vs. Non-Diabetic Kidney (Mouse Model eNOS-deficient C57BLKS db/db) (25), **Hodgin FSGS Glom**, analyses; Collapsing Focal Segmental Glomerulosclerosis vs. Normal Kidney, Focal Segmental Glomerulosclerosis Vs. Normal Kidney, Minimal Change Disease vs. Normal Kidney (26), **Ju CKD Glom**, analyses; Arterial Hypertension vs. Healthy Living Donor, Diabetic Nephropathy vs. Healthy Living Donor, Focal Segmental Glomerulosclerosis vs. Healthy Living Donor, IgA Nephropathy vs. Healthy Living Donor, Lupus Nephritis vs. Healthy Living Donor, Minimal Change Disease vs. Healthy Living Donor, Membranous Glomerulonephropathy vs. Healthy Living Donor, Tumor Nephrectomy vs. Healthy Living Donor, Thin Basement Membrane Disease vs. Healthy Living Donor, Vasculitis vs. Healthy Living Donor, **Neusser Hypertension Glom**, analysis; Nephrosclerosis vs. Tumor Nephrectomy (27), **Peterson Lupus Glom**, analysis; Lupus Nephritis vs. Normal Kidney (28), **Reich IgAN Glom**, analysis; IgA Nephropathy vs. Healthy Living Donor (29) **Woroniciecka Diabetes Glom**, analysis; Diabetic Nephropathy vs. Healthy Living Donor (30).

**Electron microscopy:** Samples were prepared as previously (31). Briefly, mouse kidneys were harvested and immediately cut into 1 mm<sup>2</sup> pieces and fixed in 2.5% glutaraldehyde, 4%

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paraformaldehyde and 0.1M HEPES pH7.4. Samples were stained in 1% osmium tetroxide, 1.5% potassium ferrocyanide in 0.1M cacodylate buffer, followed by 1% thiocarbohydrazide. Samples were washed and stained further in 1% osmium tetroxide and incubated in 1% uranyl acetate overnight. Samples were incubated in lead aspartate pH5.5 for 1h at 60°C, dehydrated and finally embedded in TAAB 812 hard resin. Samples were mounted onto an aluminium cryo pin. Block surfaces were trimmed using a glass knife or diamond trimming tool. To create a conductive surface, a gold coating was applied to the specimen. The samples were analysed using a Quanta 250 FEG (FEI Company) + Gatan 3view system. The analysed *Col4a1<sup>+/SVC</sup>* received treatment with 4-Sodium phenyl butyric acid as described before which did not affect the kidney phenotype (32) Kidney samples for transmission electron microscopy were fixed as for serial block face-scanning electron microscopy. 70-80nm thick sections were prepared and examined using a FEI Tecnai 12G2 Biotwin transmission electron microscope. Foot process width, GBM thickness and Bowman’s capsule basement membrane thickness were measured using ImageJ (Version 2.0.0-rc-68/1.52e). Foot process width was measured at the basal side of podocytes from 10 different fields of view in the glomerulus. Measurements were taken from one glomerulus per mouse genotype. GBM thickness was measured radially from the endothelial side of the electron-dense GBM to the basal membrane of podocyte foot processes. Bowman’s capsule thickness was measured radially in different sections of the acquired serial block face-scanning electron microscopy stack from one glomerulus.

**Light microscopy:** Formaldehyde-fixed, paraffin-embedded kidney sections were used for immunofluorescence. Images were acquired using a Zeiss Axioimager.D2 upright microscope using a 20x / 0.50 EC Plan-neofluar and captured using a Coolsnap HQ2 camera (Photometrics) through Micromanager software v1.4.23. Images of stained cryosections were acquired using a Zeiss AxioObserver Z1 wide-field microscope equipped with a 40x / EC Plan-neofluar 1.3 Oil objective and an AxioCam MRm camera, controlled by Zeiss Axiovision software. Specific band pass filter sets for DAPI, FITC and Texas red were used to prevent bleed through from one channel to the next. Images were processed and analysed using ImageJ (Version 1.51j8 and version 2.0.0-rc-68/1.52e). Total positive antibody fluorescence was measured in glomeruli and the TI separately and normalized to the total background in the same area to generate corrected total fluorescence. Background was subtracted using a rolling ball algorithm in ImageJ in the shown immunofluorescent images in **Figure 3** and **Figure 8**.

**Tissue preparation and staining for STORM imaging:** Tissue was fixed and stained as described previously (33, 34). In brief, kidneys were fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde (PFA) in



PBS. Samples were washed in PBS incubated in a cryoprotectant solution of 2.3M sucrose plus 10% polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP) in 0.1M piperazine-N, N'-bis (PIPES) at pH = 7.2 at 4°C overnight. Tissue pieces were mounted on a metal sectioning pin and frozen in liquid nitrogen. Frozen tissue was sectioned using an EM-FC6 ultracryomicrotome (Leica) and collected on carbon-coated coverslips. Sections were fixed in 4% PFA for 20 minutes, washed with PBS and PFA was quenched using 50mM glycine in PBS. For immunofluorescence, sections were blocked in 2% BSA in PBS overnight followed by another overnight incubation of primary antibodies diluted in 2% BSA in PBS. After washing, sections were incubated with secondary antibodies diluted in 2% BSA in PBS for 2 hours at room temperature. Secondary antibodies for Direct-STORM were purchased from Jackson ImmunoResearch Laboratories and custom conjugated to Andy Fluor-488, -Cy3 or Cy5 reporter dyes as described previously (34). Sections were washed again in PBS and postfixed in 3% PFA plus 0.05% glutaraldehyde in PBS. After a final washing series, samples were imaged by Nikon N-STORM according to the manufacturer's instructions as described (34).

**Histology:** Paraffin embedded mouse tissue sections were stained using a Shandon Linistain GLX stainer (Thermo Fisher) for hematoxylin and eosin. Samples were mounted using Histokitt solution (Roth). For Picro Sirius Red staining, paraffin-embedded tissue sections were dewaxed using a Leica ST5010 autostainer. Tissue sections were stained by incubation of slides in picro-sirius red solution [(0.5g Sirius Red (Sigma) and 500ml of saturated aqueous solution of picric acid (Sigma)] for one hour. Slides were washed in acidified water. Slides were dehydrated and mounted using Histokitt solution (Roth). Images were collected on an Olympus BX63 upright microscope using a 60x / 1.42 PlanApo N objective and captured and white-balanced using a DP80 camera (Olympus) in colour/polarised light mode through CellSens Dimension v1.16 (Olympus). For TriPAS staining paraffin sections were dewaxed and placed into 1% periodic acid for 10 minutes, and washed with tap and distilled water. Nuclei were stained with Gills No.2 haematoxylin for 1.5 minutes and washed in tepid tap water. Sections were stained in 2% orange G dissolved in 100 ml of 5% phosphotungstic acid for 1 minute. Sections were washed, dehydrated and coverslipped. For human and mouse sections, a specialist kidney pathologist performed percentage glomerulosclerosis analysis and percentage interstitial fibrosis and tubular atrophy (IFTA) scoring on the TriPAS-stained tissue sections.

**Urinary albumin and creatinine analysis:** Spot urine was collected at the same time of the day for each group of mice. Urinary albumin was measured using a mouse albumin ELISA kit

(E99-134, Bethyl Laboratories). Creatinine was measured using a creatinine ELISA assay according to Manufacturer’s instructions (KGE005, R&D systems).

**Data sharing information:** The proteomics data were deposited in the ProteomeXchange Consortium (35) via the PRoteomics IDentifications database (PRIDE) partner repository with the dataset identifier PXD022363 “Col4a1 mouse glomerular datasets”, PXD022392 “Col4a3 mouse glomerular datasets”, PXD022227 “Col4a5 mouse glomerular extracellular matrix and cellular fraction”, PXD022219 “Human kidney proteomics, glomerular and tubular cellular and matrix fractions”.

**Statistical analysis:** Data presented as bar charts (mean±SEM) or box-and-whisker plots and were analyzed using GraphPad Prism (version 7, GraphPad Software, La Jolla, CA, USA). Data were analyzed by Shapiro-Wilk test for normality and analyzed by Kruskal-Wallis test or ANOVA with post-hoc Bonferroni correction or t-test as appropriate. Statistical significance was accepted at  $p < 0.05$ . Principal component analysis was performed in MATLAB. Unsupervised hierarchical clustering was performed in T4MeV using a Euclidean distance-based complete-linkage matrix.

**Results**

**Structural and compositional change in matrix**

Type IV collagen is an essential component of basement membranes (BM) in the kidney and exists as three networks comprised of  $\alpha1.\alpha1.\alpha2(IV)$ ,  $\alpha3.\alpha4.\alpha5(IV)$  and  $\alpha5.\alpha5.\alpha6(IV)$  heterotrimers. We confirmed the glomerular localization of these three networks with  $\alpha1.\alpha1.\alpha2(IV)$  in the mesangium, GBM and Bowman’s capsule;  $\alpha3.\alpha4.\alpha5(IV)$  in the GBM; and  $\alpha5.\alpha5.\alpha6(IV)$  in Bowman’s capsule (**S.Figure 1**). To understand the impact of glomerular disease on matrix we investigated three mouse models with defects in the different collagen IV heterotrimers. Firstly *Col4a1*<sup>+/<sup>SVC</sup></sup> mice, which harbor a glycine to aspartic acid variant (G1064D) and have phenotypic overlap with human *COL4A1* variants, including defects in Bowman’s capsule, kidney cysts and tubular dysfunction (32, 36). Secondly *Col4a3*<sup>-/-</sup> mice (autosomal recessive Alport syndrome), which have progressive glomerular disease associated with GBM defects (17), and thirdly a new *Col4a5*<sup>-/-</sup> model of X-linked Alport syndrome. We characterized the *Col4a5*<sup>-/-</sup> mice and demonstrated abnormal GBM thickness, podocyte effacement and progressive albuminuria (**S.Figure 2**). To investigate the impact of *Col4a* defects on matrix ultrastructure, we performed serial block-face scanning electron microscopy of young (6-8 weeks), adult (16-18 weeks) and aged (28 weeks) mice (**Figure 1A-D and S. Videos 1-4**). GBM thickness was similar to wild type in adult *Col4a1*<sup>+/<sup>SVC</sup></sup> mice but

thickened in adult *Col4a3<sup>-/-</sup>* and *Col4a5<sup>-/-</sup>* mice. Podocyte foot process width was preserved in *Col4a1<sup>+/-SVC</sup>* mice but increased over age with *Col4a3<sup>-/-</sup>* and *Col4a5<sup>-/-</sup>* mice. Bowman's capsule BM thickness was increased in adult *Col4a3<sup>-/-</sup>* mice compared to adult wild type and *Col4a5<sup>-/-</sup>* mice and markedly thickened in aged *Col4a3<sup>-/-</sup>* mice (**S. Video 3**). Adult *Col4a1<sup>+/-SVC</sup>* mice had normal thickness of Bowman's capsule BM, but there was infiltration of parietal epithelial cells. Given these structural changes in the matrix, we analyzed matrix composition using mass spectrometry-based proteomics. To interrogate changes that precede, and also coincide with ultrastructural changes, we analyzed glomerular proteomes in young and adult mice. We isolated glomeruli and separated cellular and matrix fractions from n=3 (*Col4a1<sup>+/-SVC</sup>*), n=5 (*Col4a3<sup>-/-</sup>*) and n=5 (*Col4a5<sup>-/-</sup>*) mice and their respective littermate controls as previously described (9). Proteins were taken forward if identified by 3 unique peptides with a Mascot score indicating a <5% false discovery rate. Gene Ontology (GO) enrichment analysis highlighted increases in cell matrix and cell adhesion ontologies and a reduction in mitochondrial and metabolic components in all three *Col4a* models compared to controls (**Figure 1E**). Equivalent analyses of individual *Col4a* datasets highlighted similar cellular pathways (**S.Figure 3A**) and principal component analysis (PCA) demonstrated model and age segregation (**Figure 2A**). Taken together these findings highlight both structural and compositional changes in matrix in models of glomerular disease.

### Evolution of altered matrix in ageing and disease

To explore the altered glomerular matrix we focused on the matrix-enriched fractions where 707 (*Col4a1<sup>+/-SVC</sup>*), 334 (*Col4a3<sup>-/-</sup>*) and 600 (*Col4a5<sup>-/-</sup>*) proteins were detected. Volcano plots revealed age and genotype specific changes in protein identifications (**Figure 2B-E**). In keeping with predictions based on genotype, collagen- $\alpha$ 1(IV) and collagen- $\alpha$ 2(IV) were reduced in *Col4a1<sup>+/-SVC</sup>* glomeruli but moderately increased in both *Col4a3<sup>-/-</sup>* and *Col4a5<sup>-/-</sup>* glomeruli (**Figure 2F and S.Figure 4A**). In addition, both collagen  $\alpha$ 3. $\alpha$ 4. $\alpha$ 5(IV) and laminin 521 were reduced in *Col4a3<sup>-/-</sup>* and *Col4a5<sup>-/-</sup>* in contrast to *Col4a1<sup>+/-SVC</sup>* glomeruli (**Figure 2F and S.Figure 4A**) and immunofluorescence confirmed reduced levels of collagen- $\alpha$ 3(IV) and collagen- $\alpha$ 4(IV) in *Col4a5<sup>-/-</sup>* mice (**S.Figure 4B**). Although ultrastructure was preserved in young Alport mice (**Figure 1**), we observed altered matrix composition (**Figure 2B,D and S.Figure 5A and 6A**) with a broad reduction in BM components and an increase in interstitial matrix. This pattern was exaggerated in the older mice (**Figure 2C,E and S.Figure 5B and 6B**). Although less pronounced there were also changes during ageing in wild type mice, with reduced collagen IV and increased collagen VI (**S.Figure 3B**). We performed immunofluorescence on *Col4a5<sup>-/-</sup>* kidney sections and also observed increased collagen VI, collagen I and reduced laminin- $\beta$ 2 and Tinag (**Figure 3A,B**). For greater spatial resolution we

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used stochastic optical reconstruction microscopy (STORM) to determine the localization of increased collagen VI. Control heterozygous *Col4a3*<sup>+/-</sup> mice have normal kidney function (37) and we detected regular integrin  $\beta$ 1 fluorescence and no GBM collagen VI. However, in *Col4a3*<sup>-/-</sup> mice we detected collagen VI in expanded regions of GBM (**Figure 3C**). Overall we found altered matrix composition prior to overt ultrastructural changes and these changes increased in ageing and disease progression.

**Increased cell-matrix adhesion in disease**

To connect the altered matrix with cell-matrix adhesion, we used the consensus adhesome (38) to select integrin adhesion complex components from all three disease model datasets (**Figure 4**). The consensus adhesome is centred around four dominant signalling hubs: ILK-PINCH-kindlin; FAK-paxillin; talin-vinculin and  $\alpha$ -actinin-zyxin-VASP. Examining proteins detected in cellular and matrix fractions across these hubs, we found a global increase in abundance of integrin adhesion components and their respective ligands. In particular we found parallel increases in the collagen binding integrins ( $\alpha$ 1 $\beta$ 1,  $\alpha$ 2 $\beta$ 1) with collagen VI, collagen I and collagen III in addition to the parallel increase in  $\alpha$ 8 $\beta$ 1 and its ligand nephronectin. The observed global increase in adhesion components may reflect greater receptor-ligand interaction associated with podocyte effacement.

**Altered glomerular matrix in human kidney ageing**

Having observed altered matrix in ageing and disease in mice, we examined human tissue. Glomerulosclerosis, tubular atrophy and interstitial fibrosis are observed in human ageing (45). Therefore, we investigated changes in matrix over age using unused human donor kidneys. Sections of young (15, 29, 37 years) and older (61, 67, 69 years) human kidneys were assessed blindly by a kidney pathologist who reported occasional focal glomerular and interstitial damage consistent with age. From these kidneys, glomeruli were isolated, subjected to matrix fractionation and analyzed by mass spectrometry. PCA of matrisome proteins showed good separation by age (**Figure 5A**) and GO enrichment analysis of all detected proteins highlighted matrix and cell-matrix ontologies (**S.Figure 7A**). Volcano plots and hierarchical clustering highlighted glomerular matrix proteins changing with age (**Figure 5B,C**). There was a skewed distribution with a greater number of increased abundance proteins in aged samples, including collagen VI and TIMP3 (**Figure 5B**). Fewer proteins were enriched in younger glomeruli including filaggrin-2, ECM1 and agrin. Protein-protein network mapping highlighted a reduction in BM components, including laminins and collagen IV, and an increase in interstitial matrix proteins (**Figure 5D**). Overall these findings highlight altered

composition of matrix during human glomerular ageing with similarity to ageing and disease in mice.

### Defining the human tubulointerstitial matrisome

Together with altered glomerular matrix in kidney ageing and disease, there are changes in the tubulointerstitium (8) Matrix in this kidney compartment has received far less research attention and so we first defined the human tubulointerstitial (TI) matrisome. We isolated TI matrix from n=6 human kidneys (as above) for analysis by mass spectrometry. We included proteins identified by 1 unique peptide and a Mascot score indicating a <5% false discovery rate and present in 2 out of 3 samples in each age group. We robustly identified 141 proteins (**S.Table 2**) (**S.Figure 8A,B**) and 90% of all the components were also found in the glomerular matrix from this study and our previous investigation (9) Comparison of human glomerular and TI matrix revealed distinct proteomes (**S.Figure 8C**). Collagen- $\alpha 3(\text{IV})$  was abundant in the glomerular matrix, but also detected in the tubulointerstitium, which we validated by immunofluorescence (**S.Figure 9A**). We screened the Human Protein Atlas (39) to confirm localization of 67 components in the tubulointerstitium and 80 in both glomerular and TI compartments (**S.Figure 9B,C**). Combining the glomerular and TI datasets allowed us to define the combined human kidney matrisome, dominated by proteoglycans, collagens and a wide variety of matrix regulators and secreted factors (**S.Figure 10**). Together these data highlight the complexity of the TI matrix and key compositional differences with the adjacent glomerular compartment.

### Altered tubulointerstitial matrix in human kidney ageing

Having defined the human TI matrisome, we compared TI matrices from young (15, 29, 37 years) and aged (61, 67, 69 years) human kidneys. GO enrichment map analysis of all proteins highlighted increased matrix and cell-matrix adhesion ontologies, and a reduction in mitochondrial components (**Figure 6A**). We found age associated increases in structural components collagen VI, fibulin-1, fibronectin and matrix regulators TIMP3 and ADAMTS5 (**Figure 6B**). Indeed several fibulin isoforms were increased in our mouse and human datasets and immunofluorescence confirmed increased fibulin-1 in the tubulointerstitium (**Figure 6C,D**). Furthermore, a number of age related changes were found in both glomerular and TI matrix including fibulin-1, TIMP3 and collagen VI (**Figure 7A,B**). There were also compartment distinct changes with reduced BM components observed in glomerular ageing but not seen in the aged TI matrix suggesting that tubular BMs are less exposed to damage during ageing. Relating these molecular changes to histology, we observed that ageing was only accompanied by a small increase in glomerulosclerosis and interstitial fibrosis and tubular



atrophy (IFTA) scores (**Figure 7C,D**), in keeping with our finding in the mouse disease models that altered matrix composition precedes overt or widespread structural changes.

**A signature of altered kidney matrix in ageing and disease.**

Across our ageing and disease datasets we observed consistent increases in collagen VI, nephronectin and fibrinogens and decreased BM components (**Figure 8A,B**). To investigate the relevance in human disease, we examined kidney biopsy sections from a young male patient with autosomal recessive Alport syndrome. Compared to control kidney sections, we observed increased levels of collagen VI and decreased levels of laminin- $\beta$ 2 in the glomerulus (**Figure 8C**). To determine whether this signature applied to a wider spectrum of human kidney disease, we searched for the signature proteins in published proteomic datasets. In a study of IgA nephropathy (11) we found consistency with increases in collagen VI and fibrinogen chains and in diabetic kidney disease (DKD) (12) there was increased collagen VI and nephronectin (**Figure 8D**). Data from a biopsy study of human focal segmental glomerulosclerosis (FSGS) identified increased interstitial collagen XV and Tgm2 (40). We also observed reduced BM components in IgA nephropathy and FSGS but not in DKD (**Figure 8D**), which may reflect the overall matrix expansion seen in DKD. To provide insight into the pathways associated with the matrix signature proteins, we created a 1-hop interaction network by connecting upregulated signature proteins with their nearest neighbours identified in protein interaction databases (**S.Figure 11**). This highlighted biological processes associated with matrix and adhesion but also with immune systems processes. We also compared the matrix signature proteins to RNA levels using the Nephroseq database and across a variety of phenotypes we observed similar increases in the signature transcripts (**Figure 8E, S.Table 3,4**). Finally we combined all primary, processed data from this study to allow direct evaluation (**S.Table 5**).

**Discussion:**

In this study we aimed to define altered matrix at the molecular level in kidney ageing and disease. We found: 1) ultrastructural change in matrix coupled with altered composition in models of glomerular disease, 2) similar patterns of altered glomerular matrix in human ageing with a reduction in BM proteins and an increase in interstitial matrix, 3) we defined the human tubulointerstitial matrix as a network of 141 components with a distinct pattern of altered matrix in ageing and 4) we observed a signature of altered matrix in kidney ageing and disease and provide evidence for shared pathobiology.

The processes that drive abnormal matrix in tissues remain unclear, although this understanding could lead to targeted therapies. In this study we describe altered matrix

structure with evolution over age and disease progression. The GBM of *Col4a3<sup>-/-</sup>* and *Col4a5<sup>-/-</sup>* mice at 6-8 weeks appeared normal, however proteomic analysis identified compositional change at this early stage. With age these disease models progressed with thickened GBM and the separation between control and disease matrix composition was more apparent. One aspect of the altered matrix was a reduction in BM components including collagen IV and laminins. In dynamic studies of endogenously tagged proteins in *C. elegans*, laminin and collagen IV orthologues have slower recovery after photobleaching compared to nidogens, agrin and perlecan (41). With this in mind, the reduction in BM components we observed could represent damage to these structures and an inability to replenish. We also observed increases in interstitial matrix with nephronectin and collagen VI, with integration of collagen VI into the GBM in *Col4a3<sup>-/-</sup>* mice. Genetic variants in *COL6A1/2/3* cause Bethlem and Ulrich myopathies (42) but no reported kidney phenotype. However, collagen VI degradation has been associated with chronic kidney disease (43) and its cleavage product endotrophin triggers fibrosis and metabolic dysfunction (44).

Glomerular capillaries are exposed to mechanical load during filtration. Loss of a key BM components may affect the mechanical properties of the GBM. Equally, loss of collagen VI has been shown to alter stiffness in the pericellular matrix of cartilage (45). Therefore collagen VI deposition in ageing and disease may occur to restore the mechanical properties of the GBM. Furthermore, collagen VI is a prominent downstream regulator of myofibroblast activity, with knockdown reducing fibrosis (46). Our data shows collagen VI increasing early where it may act to strengthen BM defects while paradoxically promoting fibrosis (**Figure 8E**). However, the role of increased collagen VI requires further investigation as does the potential for targeted inhibition.

In parallel with altered matrix, we observed changes in cell adhesion components. The complex of proteins that assemble upon adhesion receptor and ligand engagement has been described for interactions with fibronectin (21) in addition to the BM ligands collagen IV and laminins (47). The consensus adhesome identified a series of four signalling hubs (38) and we found a global increase in components across all four signalling hubs. In addition, we found increases in receptors and their paired matrix ligand including integrin  $\alpha 1\beta 1$ , integrin  $\alpha 2\beta 1$  with increased fibrillar collagens (I and III) and collagen VI and integrin  $\alpha 8\beta 1$  with nephronectin. Nephronectin is predominantly localized to the mesangium in the glomerulus and regulates mesangial cell adhesion (48), however increased GBM localization of nephronectin is reported in diabetic kidney disease (12). Our analysis of matrix receptors focussed on the integrin adhesion complexes as we did not detect discoid domain receptors (DDR) or syndecans.

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This could be due to low abundance or due to factors limiting their detection by mass spectrometry. Overall, the changes we observed in adhesion components could be explained by increased cell-matrix adhesion associated with podocyte effacement and increased interaction with the GBM.

To relate our findings in mice to human tissue, we investigated matrix isolated from young and older human kidneys. We also found a reduction in BM components and increased collagen VI and nephronectin in the aged glomerular matrix. Indeed, these components were also increased in proteomic studies of IgA nephropathy (11), DKD (12) and collagen VI was also upregulated in aged human dentin (49). A Nephroseq analysis provided further correlation between matrix signature proteins and transcriptional change in a variety of glomerular phenotypes. Kidney disease and ageing is associated with altered tubulointerstitial matrix and we therefore defined the human tubulointerstitial matrisome. We confirmed localization of 70% of these proteins in different kidney matrix compartments using the Human Protein Atlas and thereby demonstrate the value of proteomics for increasing the known composition of matrix compartments as an adjunct to immunolocalization. We further examined the change in tubulointerstitial matrix in ageing and defined a profile of altered matrix. Interestingly we did not observe the same reduction in stable BM components seen in the glomerular matrix and hypothesize this is due to differential mechanical load on glomerular and tubular BMs (50), although this could also depend on the pathological process and a reduction of BM components was recently described in a proteomic analysis of transplant kidney rejection (51).

In addition to resident kidney cells secreting abnormal matrix, transiting or infiltrating immune cells may also contribute. Macrophage to fibroblast crosstalk has been shown to direct new matrix synthesis and the direct contribution of macrophages to collagen scar formation in the heart is described in zebrafish (52). Starting with the matrix signature proteins we identified experimentally confirmed protein interactors and demonstrated 3 clusters of enriched biological processes. Unsurprisingly, these included cell matrix and cell adhesion, but also processes related to complement, TNF, NF $\kappa$ b and immune response to infection. These findings suggest that the signature of an altered matrix has greater interaction with immune system components than previously recognized.

In conclusion we describe a molecular basis for altered matrix in the kidney with common features across ageing and disease. Further investigations will focus on the cellular origins of the altered matrix and on the role of mechanical load on BM stability.



**Author contribution statement:** RL, MJR, JM, TVA, JN, DL, PP, MJH conceived and designed the studies, MJR, FL, QK, MKJ, PT, SF acquired the data, GR performed histological analysis on kidney sections. All the authors played an important role in interpreting the results, drafting and revising the manuscript. The authors have full access to the data in the study.

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## Figure legends

**Figure 1. Structural and compositional change in matrix.** (a) Segmentation and modelling of serial block-face scanning electron microscopy data. Glomerular structure is visualized in Alport (*Col4a3*<sup>-/-</sup> and *Col4a5*<sup>-/-</sup>) and *Col4a1*<sup>+/*SVC*</sup> mice. *Col4a1*<sup>+/*SVC*</sup> mice demonstrated splitting

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of Bowman’s capsule with enclosed nuclei. *Col4a3<sup>-/-</sup>* mice presented irregular GBM and progressive thickening of Bowman’s capsule, whilst Bowman’s capsule was conserved in the *Col4a5<sup>-/-</sup>* Alport mouse model. GBM (yellow), podocyte cell body with foot processes (light blue), Bowman’s capsule basement membrane (green) were reconstructed. Dark blue lines highlight the thickness of the Bowman’s capsule basement membrane. Nuclei of cells intercalate the basement membrane in *Col4a1<sup>+/-SVC</sup>* are highlighted in pink. Note: The analysed *Col4a1<sup>+/-SVC</sup>* received treatment with 4-Sodium phenyl butyric acid as described before which did not affect the kidney phenotype (38). (b) Quantification of GBM thickness; (c) podocyte foot process width (FPW); (d) Bowman’s capsule basement membrane (BCBM) thickness. Young mice were aged 6-8 weeks (Y), adult mice were 16-18 weeks (A) and aged mice were 28 weeks old (A+). Box-and-whisker plots represent the median; box, interquartile range; whiskers, 10<sup>th</sup> to 90<sup>th</sup> percentile, n=1 biological sample per model. (e) **Gene Ontology enrichment map analysis was performed on 719 proteins detected by mass spectrometry with altered abundance (>1.4 fold; p<0.1) in *Col4a1<sup>+/-SVC</sup>*, *Col4a3<sup>-/-</sup>*, *Col4a5<sup>-/-</sup>* mice at all analyzed ages compared with aged-matched control mice.** Overrepresented biological process terms are presented as nodes, colour represents Bonferroni-corrected *p* value, the lower the *p* value the more intense the node colour. Edge weight represents overlap between the proteins in the connected nodes, n=5 biological samples per mouse model studied.

**Figure 2. Evolution of altered matrix in ageing and disease.** Mouse glomerular extracts were fractionated to cellular and matrix fractions. All fractions were analyzed by mass spectrometry, proteins were identified with Mascot and quantified using Progenesis. (a) Principal component analysis of all proteins detected was computed in Matlab. Components 1 and 2 are presented and the percentage variance explained by component 1 is indicated on the x-axis and by component 2 on the y-axis. Samples were fractionated and the matrix fraction was further analyzed. (b-e) Volcano plots of proteins detected in matrix fractions demonstrate differential expression shown as log2(fold change) compared to aged, matched control on the x-axis and -log10(p-value) on the y-axis. (b) *Col4a3<sup>-/-</sup>* 6-8 weeks (c) *Col4a3<sup>-/-</sup>* 16-18 weeks (d) *Col4a5<sup>-/-</sup>* 6-8 weeks (e) *Col4a5<sup>-/-</sup>* 16-18 weeks. (f) Detected matrix proteins at the 6-8 weeks were clustered in MeV using Euclidean distance complete linkage. The clustered dendrogram is presented as a heatmap with orange representing increased abundance in Col4a mutant relative to control.

**Figure 3: Altered matrix localization in Alport syndrome.** Immunofluorescence demonstrated reduced BM proteins and increased interstitial matrix proteins in Alport mouse glomeruli. (a) Kidney sections of 8 week old *Col4a5<sup>-/-</sup>* and wildtype mice were immunolabeled

for collagen 1, collagen VI, laminin- $\beta$ 2, Tinag and nidogen. Scale bar is 20  $\mu$ m. (b) Quantification of (a). Mean fluorescence intensity was normalized to background and measured using ImageJ software. Images were acquired from n= 4 mice per genotype and between 10-15 glomeruli were analyzed per mouse, pooled data are shown. (c) Stochastic optical reconstruction microscopy was performed for integrin- $\beta$ 1 (green) and collagen VI (purple) on *Col4a3*<sup>+/+</sup> and *Col4a3*<sup>-/-</sup> mouse sections. Region of interest (ROI) highlights collagen VI localization to the GBM in *Col4a3*<sup>-/-</sup> glomeruli. Scale bar represents 2 micrometres.

**Figure 4: Altered cell-matrix adhesion components.** Unsupervised hierarchical clustered heatmap displaying the fold enrichment of adhesion proteins detected in 6-8 week *Col4a1*<sup>+/svc</sup>, *Col4a3*<sup>-/-</sup>, *Col4a5*<sup>-/-</sup> mass spectrometry datasets compared to their respective control, orange (+ is increased abundance in disease relative to control) blue (- represents decreased abundance in disease relative to control). Adhesion proteins are displayed along the four different signalling axes to the actin cytoskeleton as described previously (38).

**Figure 5: Distinct matrix composition in human glomerular ageing.** Glomeruli were isolated from young (15, 29, 37 years) and aged (61, 67, 69 years) human kidneys, subjected to matrix fractionation and analyzed by mass spectrometry. (a) Principal component analysis of matrisome proteins was carried out in Matlab, components 1 and 2 are presented and the percentage variance explained by each component is indicated on the relevant axis. (b) Volcano plots of proteins detected in matrix fractions demonstrate differential protein abundance shown as log<sub>2</sub>(fold change) glomerular aged over glomerular young on the x-axis and -log<sub>10</sub>(p-value) on the y-axis. (c) Unsupervised hierarchical clustered heatmap displaying extracellular matrix proteins detected in young and aged glomerular datasets. Data was standardised by row z-score and grouped in MeV using Pearson correlation complete linkage clustering. Inset line graph shows increased type VI collagen protein abundance with age. (d) Mass spectrometry data from matrix enriched protein fractions were filtered for known matrisome proteins. These proteins were mapped onto a merged human, mouse and rat interactome. Protein-protein interaction network of altered human glomerular matrisome proteins. Nodes represent proteins and edges represent reported protein-protein interactions. Colour represents fold enrichment to datasets, with increased abundance in aged human glomerular samples illustrated in red and increased abundance in young human glomerular samples illustrated in blue. Proteins are grouped by function.

**Figure 6: Molecular characterization of tubulointerstitial change in ageing.** Tubulointerstitial matrix was isolated from *young* (15, 29, 37 years) and *aged* (61, 67, 69 years)

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human kidney samples. (a) Volcano plots of proteins detected in extracellular matrix fractions demonstrate differential protein abundance shown as  $\log_2(\text{fold change})$  tubulointerstitial aged over tubulointerstitial young on the x-axis and  $-\log_{10}(\text{p-value})$  on the y-axis. (b) Unsupervised hierarchical clustered heatmap displaying extracellular matrix proteins detected in young and aged glomerular datasets. Data was standardised by row z-score and grouped in MeV using Pearson correlation complete linkage clustering. Inset line graph shows increased collagen VI protein abundance with age. (c) Mass spectrometry data from matrix enriched protein fractions were filtered for known matrisome proteins. These proteins were mapped onto a merged human, mouse and rat interactome. Protein-protein interaction network of altered human tubulointerstitial matrisome proteins. Nodes represent proteins and edges represent reported protein-protein interactions. Colour represents fold enrichment to datasets, with increased abundance in aged human tubulointerstitial samples illustrated in red and increased abundance in young human tubulointerstitial samples illustrated in blue. Proteins are grouped functionally. (d) Sections of normal human kidneys were stained with an antibody to fibulin-1 (red) and nuclei were stained with Hoechst 33342 (blue). Representative images are shown. Magnification: left panel x40, right panel x20. (e) The fluorescent signal in 20 fields/kidney was quantified using ImageJ. \*\*\*: P value < 0.0005. \*\*\*\*: P value < 0.0001.

**Figure 7: Comparison of the glomerular and tubulointerstitial matrix in ageing.** (a) Unsupervised hierarchical clustered heatmap displaying extracellular matrix proteins detected in human glomerular and tubulointerstitial samples analysed by mass spectrometry. Data were standardized by row z-score, clustered using Pearson uncentered distance matrix and visualized in MeV. Comparison of human glomerular and human tubulointerstitial matrix proteins with age. Line graphs show laminin proteins with increased abundance in the human glomerular matrix relative to human tubulointerstitial samples. (b) Volcano plots of proteins detected in extracellular matrix fractions demonstrate differential protein abundance shown as  $\log_2(\text{fold change})$  glomerular over tubulointerstitium on the x-axis and  $-\log_{10}(\text{p-value})$  on the y-axis. (c) TriPAS staining of young and older kidney sections highlighting increased matrix in the older kidney section. Scale bar represents 100 $\mu\text{m}$ . (d) Glomerulosclerosis and interstitial fibrosis and tubular atrophy (IFTA) scoring in n=3 young and n=3 aged kidneys.

**Figure 8: A signature of altered kidney matrix in ageing and disease.** (a,b) Bar graph displaying protein fold change of consistently altered matrix signature proteins relative to their respective controls. Error bars represent standard deviation. #p<0.1, \*p<0.05, \*\*p<0.01, \*\*\*p<0.001. (a) upregulated signature proteins. (b) downregulated signature proteins. (c) Biopsy sections from a patient with autosomal recessive Alport syndrome case and Ctrl kidney

tissue (non-affected tissue of a tumor nephrectomy sample) were stained for type VI collagen, laminin beta 2 and nephrin. Scale bar is 50  $\mu$ m (d) Dot plot comparison of signature matrix proteins to their protein levels in microdissected human IgA nephropathy samples (IgAN total and progressive IgAN) (11), human diabetic samples (12) and human FSGS samples (collapsing FSGS and FSGS not otherwise specified) (40) Significance ( $p < 0.05$ ) is indicated by an asterisk proximal to the datapoint. Fold change is presented on the y axis and dataset is highlighted by colour. (e) Analysis of signature protein transcript levels in different disease datasets using Nephroseq v5 database. Glomerular datasets were extracted and altered transcript levels with fold change  $\pm 1.5$  and  $p < 0.05$  are shown. The % detection of searched gene transcript is shown (number of datasets = 21). Full details for Nephroseq datasets and transcript fold changes used for each signature gene can be found in **S.Table 4**. (f) Schematic of hypothesized basement membrane injury process.

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### Supplemental Videos

**Video 1:** SV1-Col4a1-16weeks.

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### Supplemental Tables

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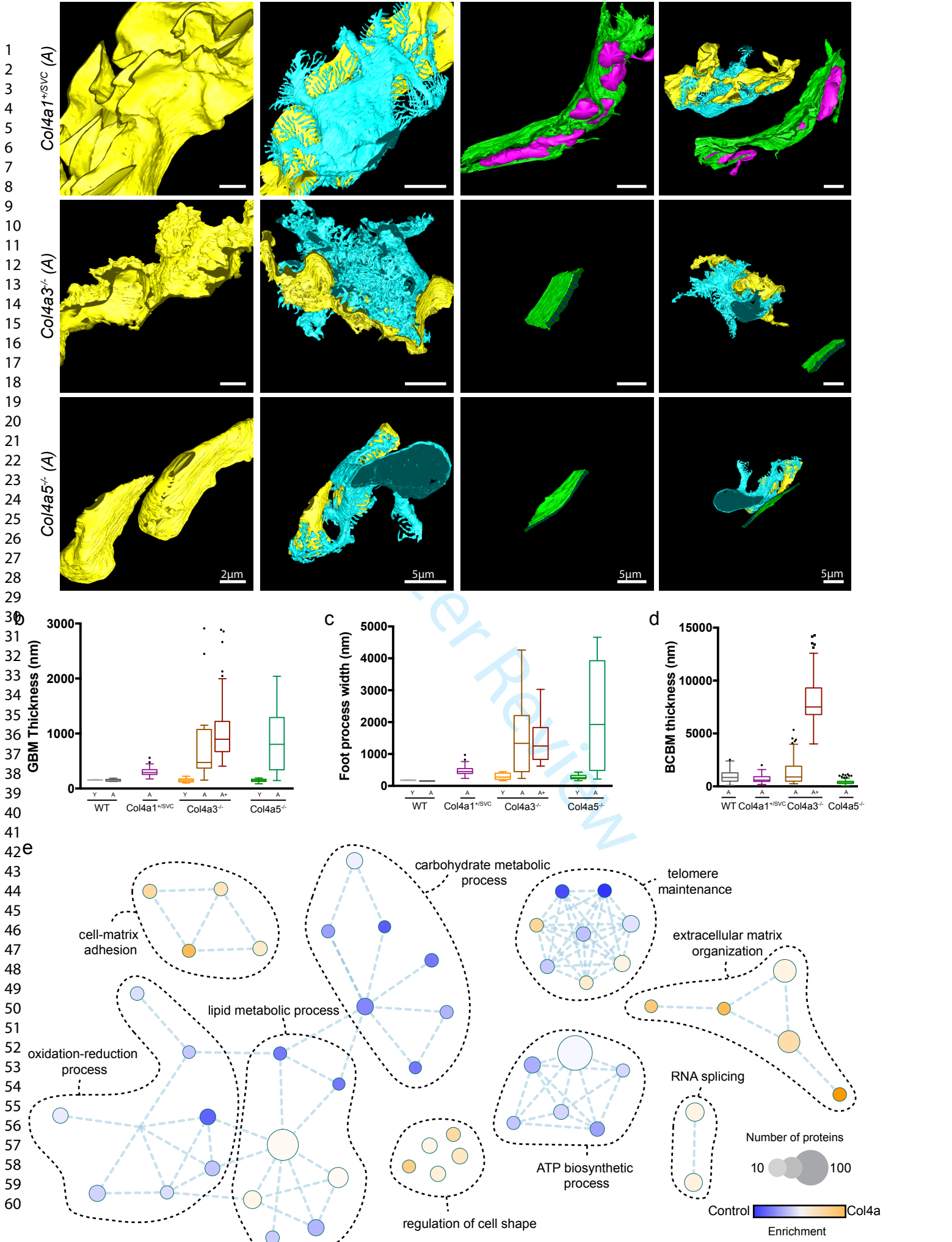
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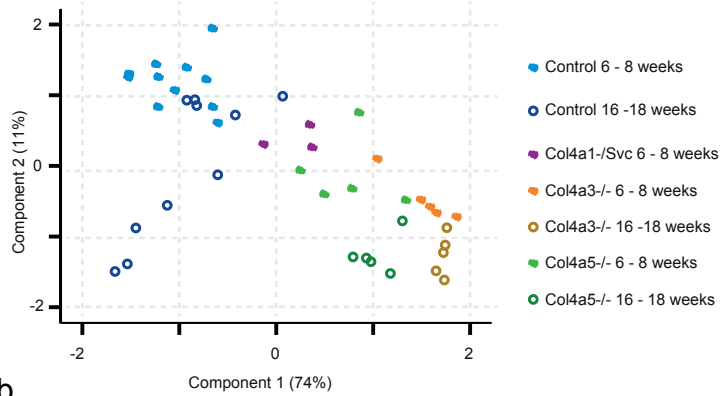
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**Significance statement**

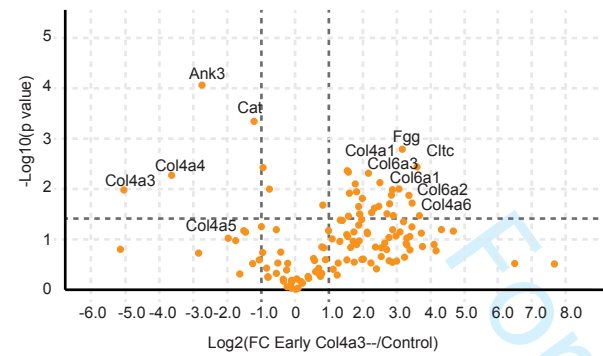
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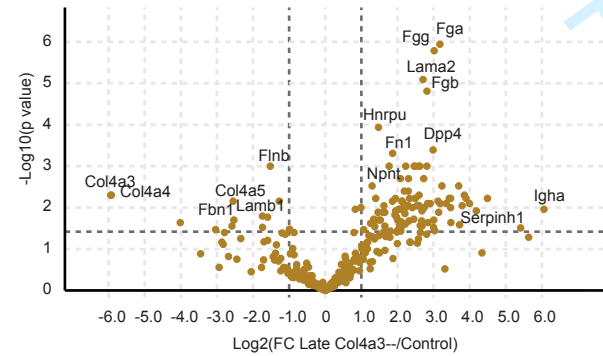
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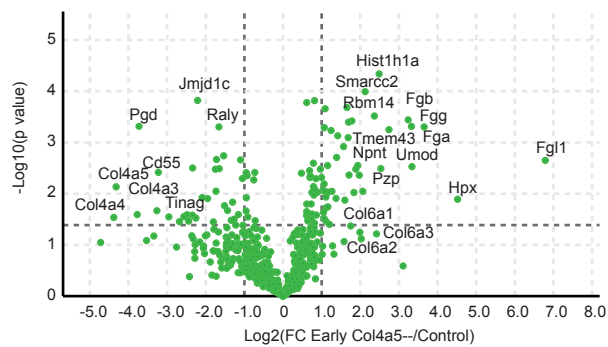
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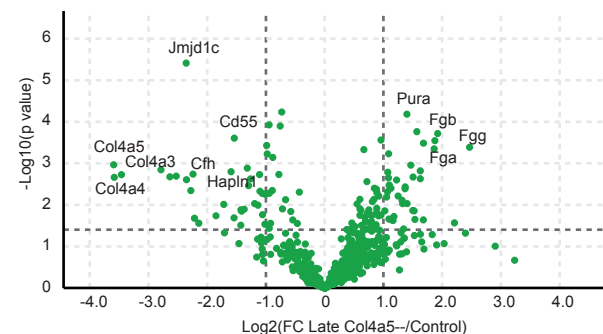
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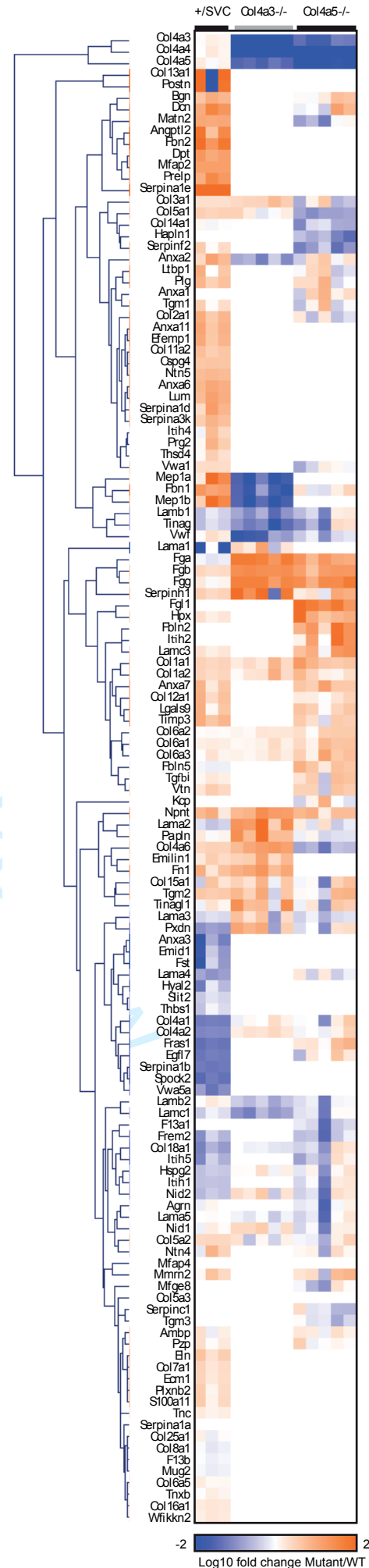
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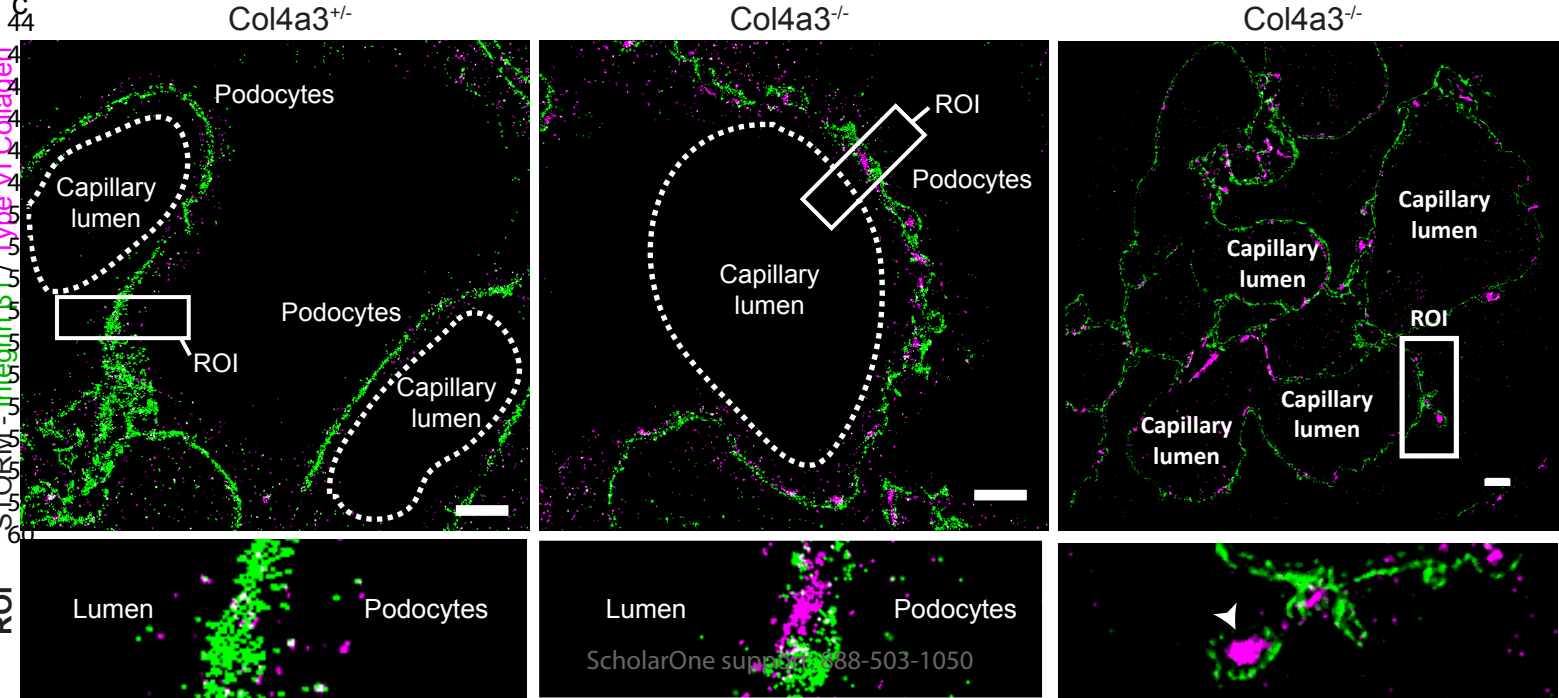
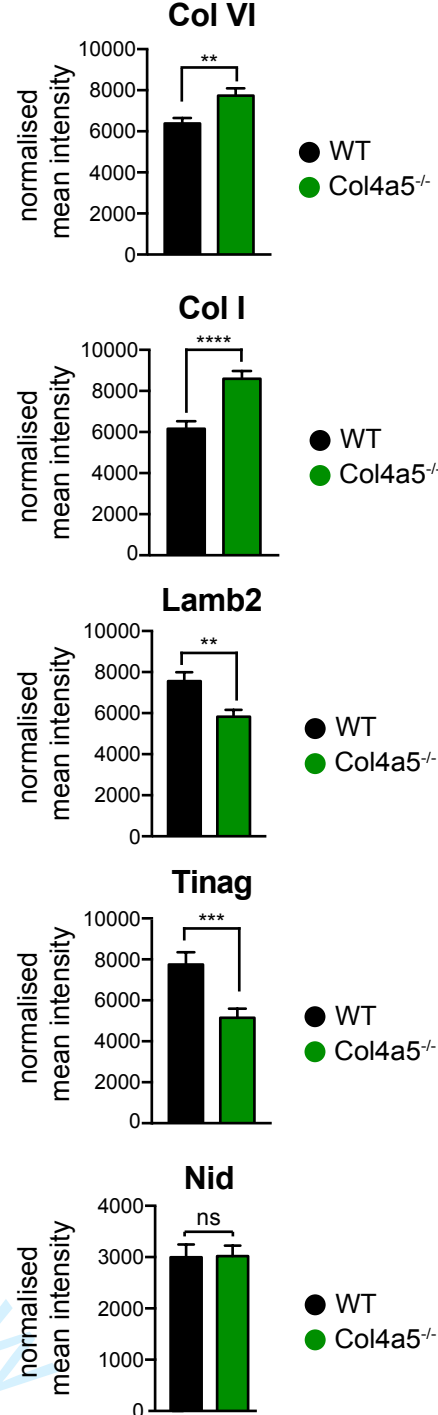
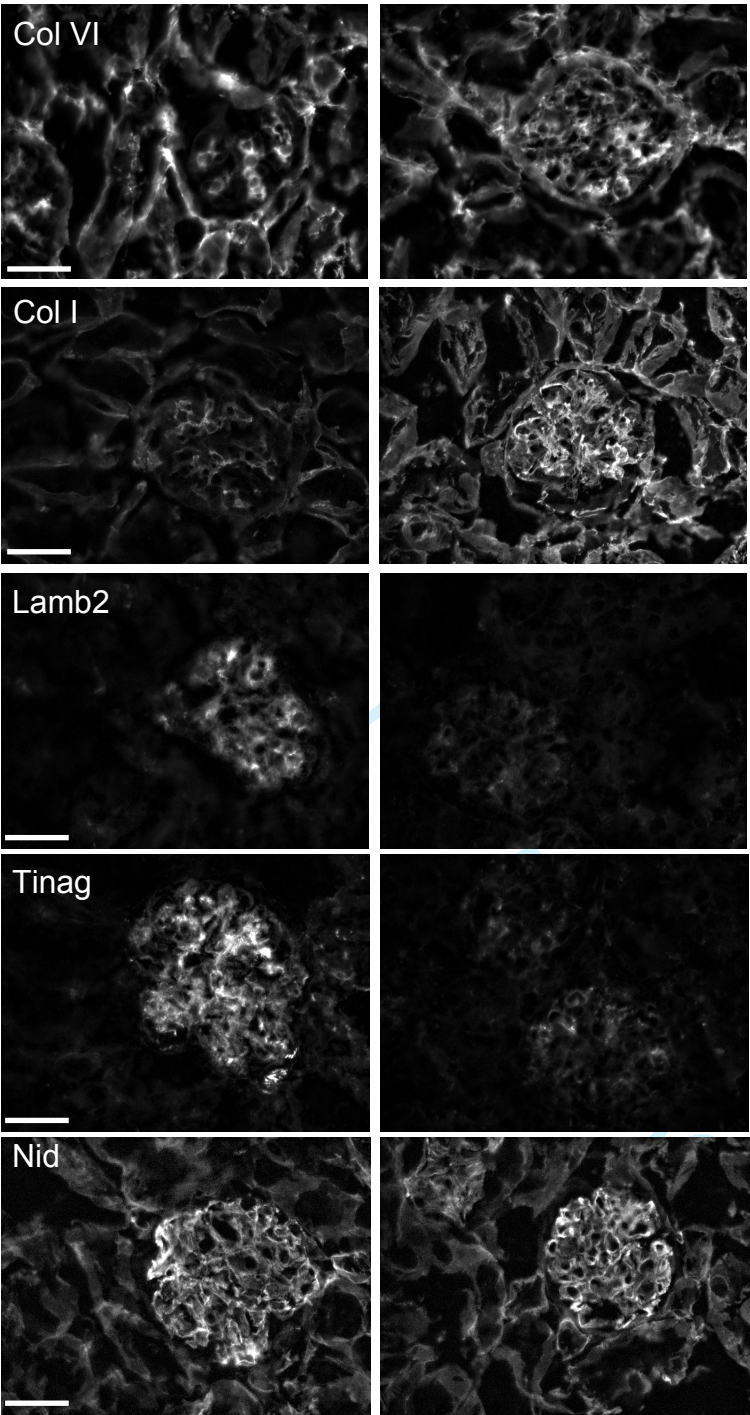


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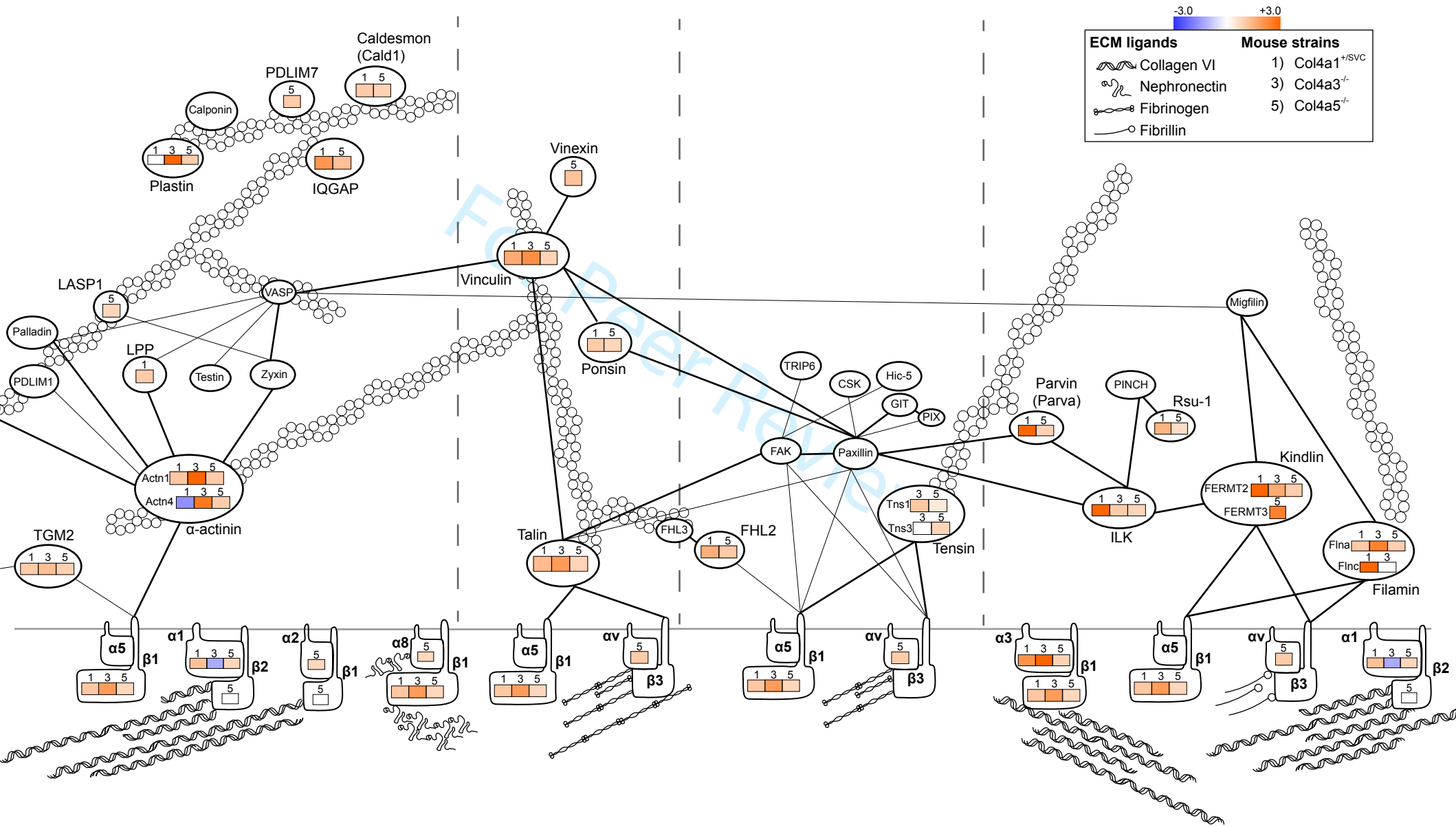


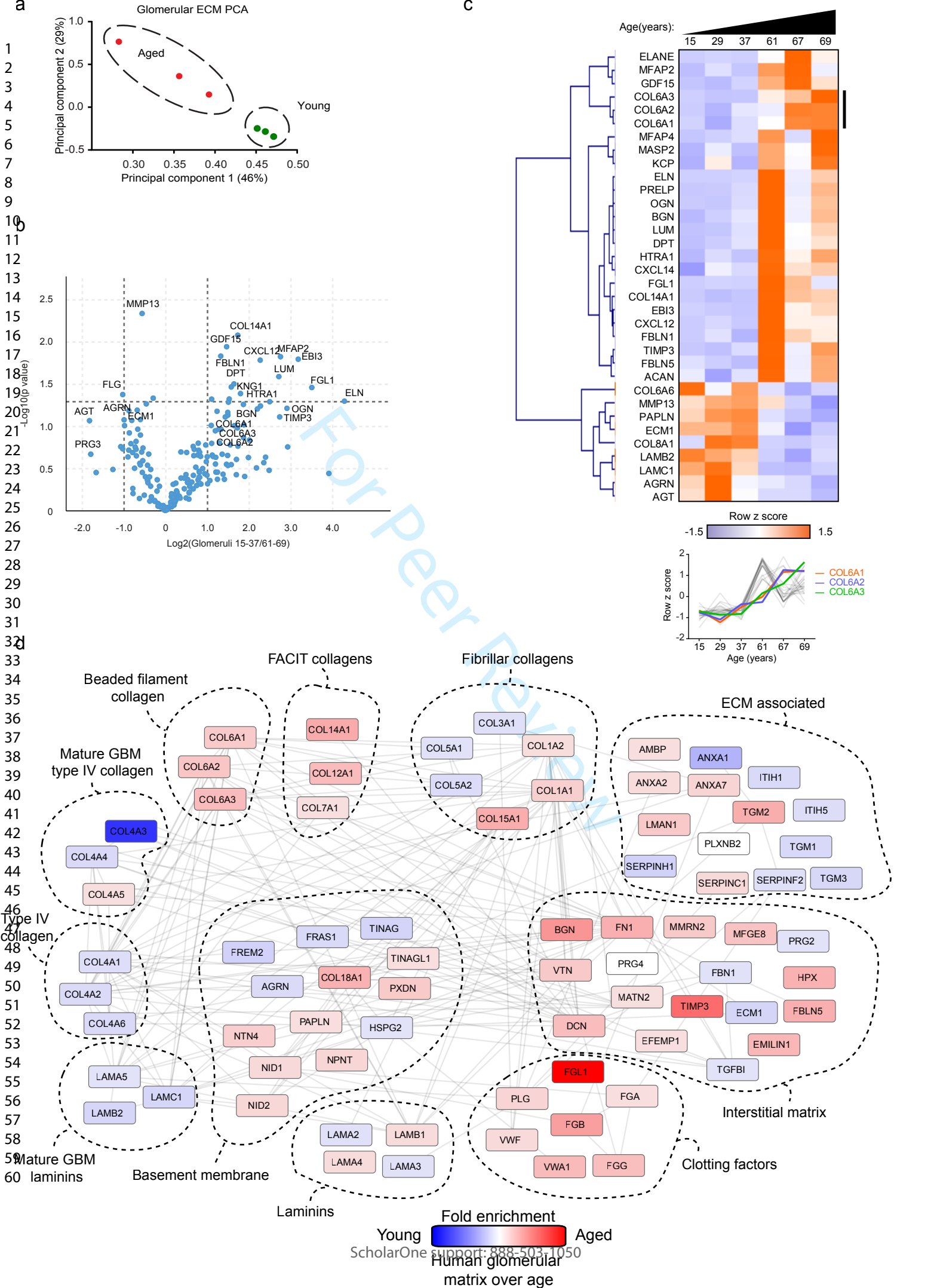


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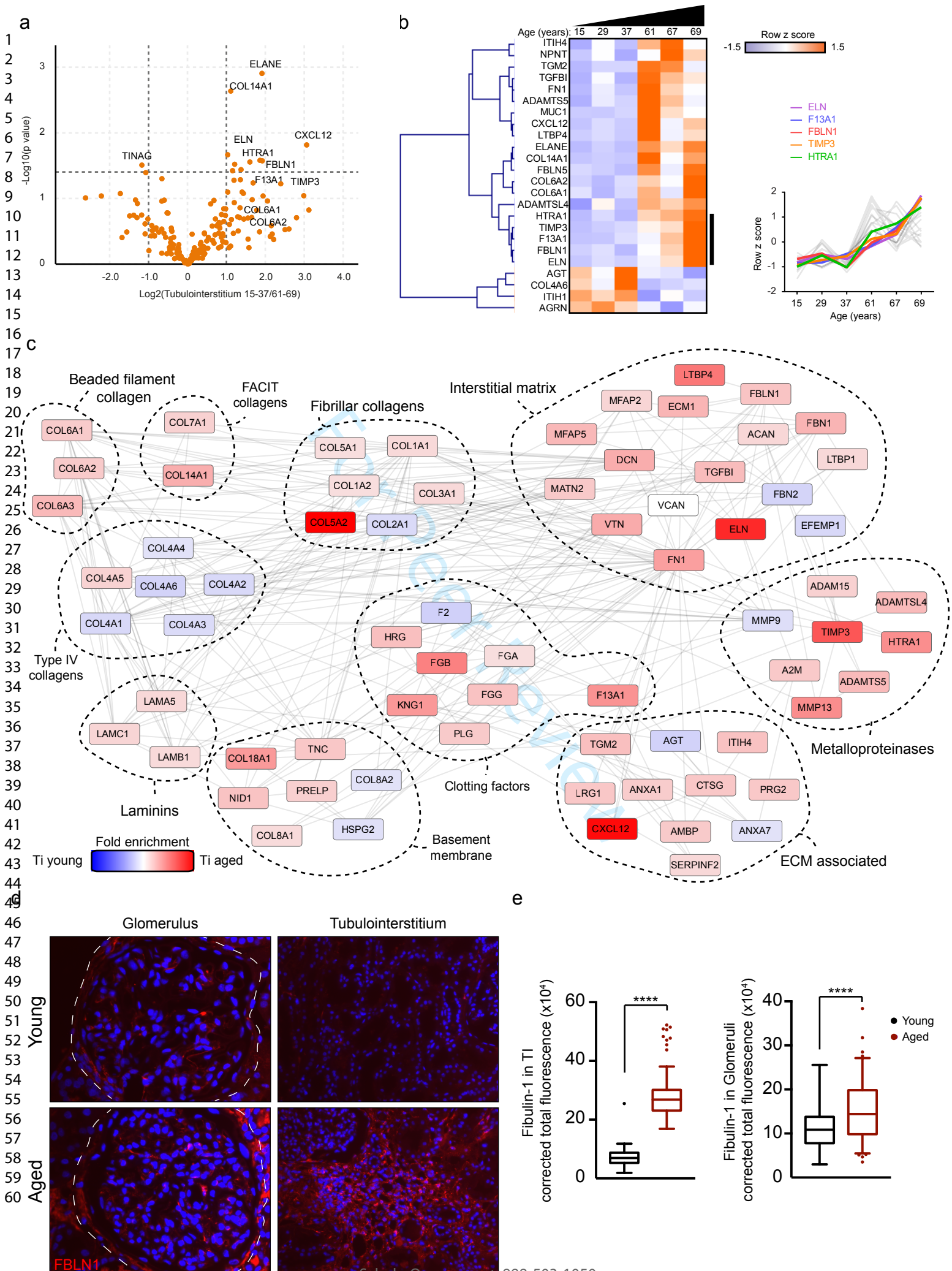
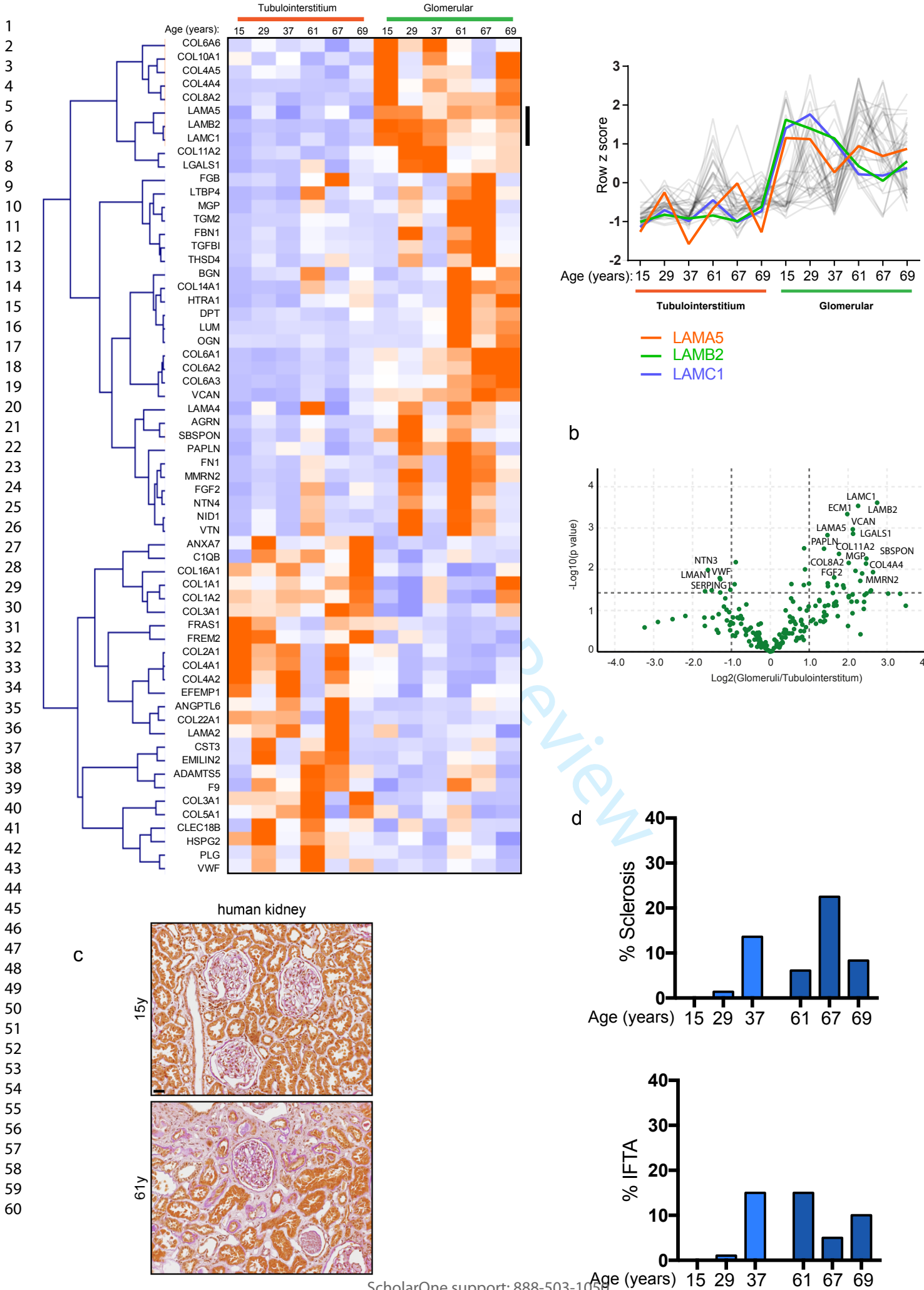
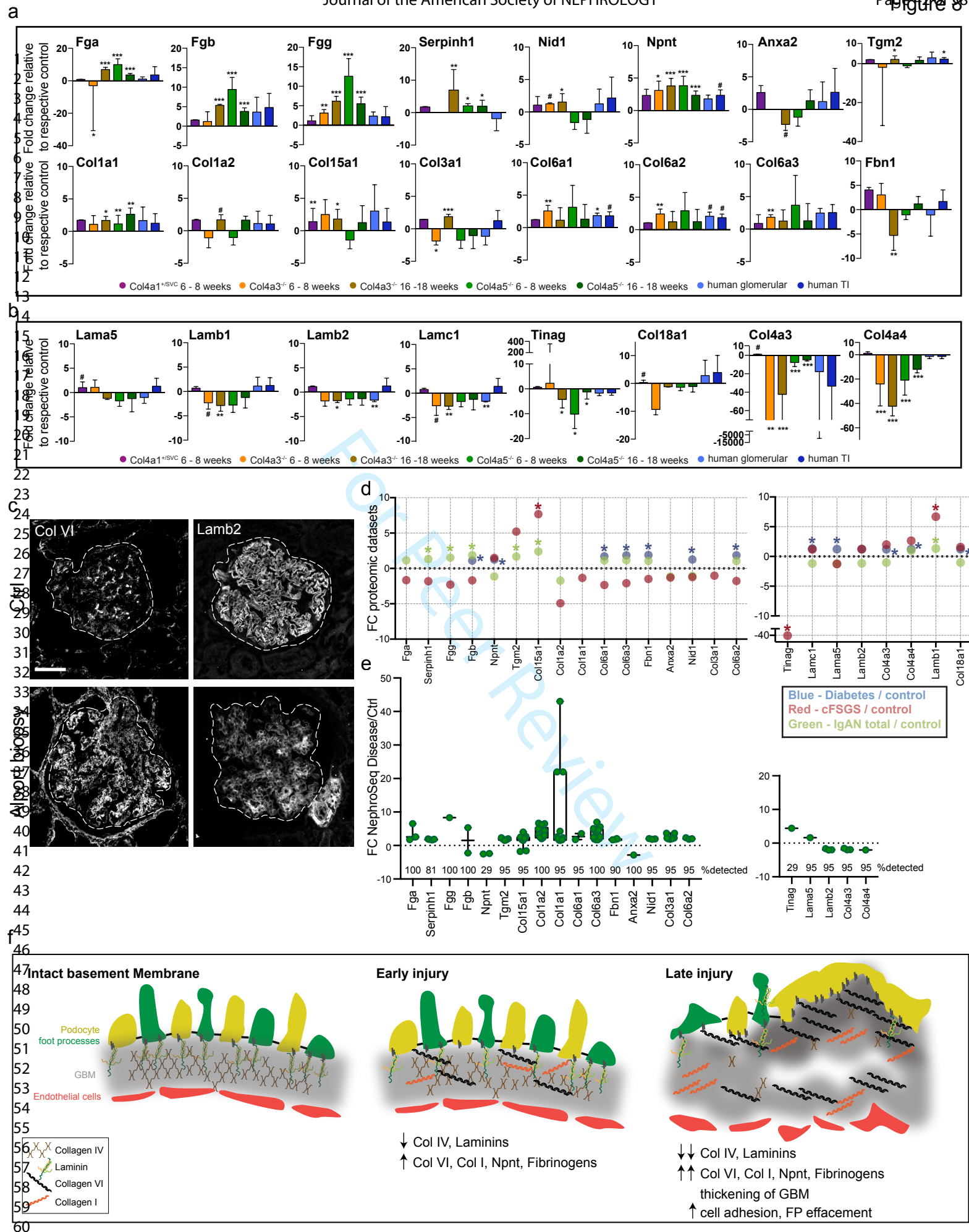


Figure 7





Supplemental material

Identification of an altered matrix signature in kidney ageing and disease

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Supplemental Videos

- Video 1: SV1-Col4a1-16weeks.
- Video 2: SV2-Col4a3-16weeks.
- Video 3: SV3-Col4a3-28weeks.
- Video 4: SV4-Col4a5-16weeks.



## Supplemental Tables

**Table S1:** Abundance of matrix proteins in mouse models.

**Table S2:** Abundance of matrix proteins in human kidney.

**Table S3:** Human disease comparison.

**Table S4:** Nephroseq v5 analysis.

**Table S5:** Normalized abundance for all primary datasets.

**Figure S1: Glomerular localization type IV collagen isoforms.** Wildtype mouse cryosections were stained for the different type IV collagen alpha chains (1-6) and the podocyte marker podocin. Col4a1 and Col4a2 localise to the glomerulus, specifically to the glomerular basement membrane and Bowman's capsule basement membrane. Col4a3 and Col4a4 were detected in the GBM. Col4a5 was detected in the GBM and Bowman's capsule. Col4a6 localized to Bowman's capsule. Scale bar is 40  $\mu$ m.

**Figure S2: Characterisation of *Col4a5*<sup>-/-</sup> mice.** (a) Cryosections of *Col4a5*<sup>-/-</sup> and *WT* mice were immunolabeled for Col4a5 and the podocyte marker podocin. Scale bar is 40  $\mu$ m. (b) Albumin and creatinine concentration was measured in urine from *Col4a5*<sup>-/-</sup> and *WT* mice and albumin-creatinine ratios were calculated. N=5 mice per group. (c) Paraffin sections from *Col4a5*<sup>-/-</sup> and wild type mice were prepared and H&E stained or (d) Picro Sirius Red staining was performed. Right panel shows Picro Sirius stains exposed to polarised light. White arrowhead highlights organised collagen fibers in Bowman's capsule. Scale bar is 40  $\mu$ m. (e) Percentage glomerulosclerosis and interstitial fibrosis and tubular atrophy (IFTA) was scored by a kidney pathologist. Between 62 and 118 glomeruli were examined per mouse. Pooled data from n=3 wild type mice and n=4 *Col4a5*<sup>-/-</sup> mice are shown. (f) Kidney samples from *Col4a5*<sup>-/-</sup> and wild type mice were fixed and transmission electron microscopy (TEM) performed. Yellow arrowhead highlights an area of thickened basement membrane. (g) Quantification of (f). Number of foot processes per length of GBM was calculated. GBM thickness was measured from TEM images. Pooled data from n= 3 mice per group.

**Figure S3: Overview of glomerular proteomic data.** (a) Gene Ontology enrichment map analysis of all proteins detected by mass spectrometry with altered abundance (>1.4 fold;  $p < 0.1$ ) in *Col4a1*<sup>+/-s/vc</sup>, *Col4a3*<sup>-/-</sup>, *Col4a5*<sup>-/-</sup> mice at all analysed ages compared with aged, matched control mice. Overrepresented biological process terms are presented as nodes. (b) Comparison of wild type mice at 6-8 weeks and 16-18 weeks of age. Mass spectrometry data from matrix enriched protein fractions were filtered for known matrisome proteins. These proteins were mapped onto a merged human, mouse and rat interactome and a protein-

protein interaction network of altered mouse matrisome proteins is shown. Nodes represent proteins and edges represent reported protein-protein interactions. Colour represents fold enrichment to datasets, with increased abundance in 16-18 week wild type mice in red and increased abundance in 6-8 week old wild type mice illustrated in blue. Proteins are grouped by function.

**Figure S4: Altered matrisome proteins.** (a) Selected profiles of matrix proteins detected with significantly altered protein abundance in *Col4a1*<sup>+/svc</sup> and young *Col4a3*<sup>-/-</sup> and *Col4a5*<sup>-/-</sup> mouse glomeruli by mass spectrometry. Data are presented as log10 fold change dot plots with the mean and standard deviation shown. (d) Immunofluorescence staining for Col4a1, Col4a2, Col4a3 and Col4a4 protein in both *Col4a5*<sup>-/-</sup> and *WT* mice. Scale bar is 70 µm.

**Figure S5: Altered matrisome proteins in *Col4a3*<sup>-/-</sup> mice.** (a,b) Mass spectrometry data from matrix enriched protein fractions were filtered for known matrisome proteins. These proteins were mapped onto a merged human, mouse and rat interactome. Nodes represent proteins and edges represent reported protein-protein interactions. Colour represents fold enrichment to datasets, with increased abundance in *Col4a3*<sup>-/-</sup> relative to control illustrated in red and decreased abundance in *Col4a3*<sup>-/-</sup> relative to control illustrated in blue. Proteins are grouped functionally. (a) Early time point, (b) late time point.

**Figure S6: Altered matrisome proteins in *Col4a5*<sup>-/-</sup> mice.** (a,b) Mass spectrometry data from matrix enriched protein fractions were filtered for known matrisome proteins. These proteins were mapped onto a merged human, mouse and rat interactome. Nodes represent proteins and edges represent reported protein-protein interactions. Colour represents fold enrichment to datasets, with increased abundance in *Col4a5*<sup>-/-</sup> relative to control illustrated in red and decreased abundance in *Col4a5*<sup>-/-</sup> relative to control illustrated in blue. Proteins are grouped functionally. (a) Early time point, (b) late time point.

**Figure S7: Human kidney data enrichment analysis.** (a) Gene Ontology enrichment map analysis of all proteins detected by mass spectrometry with altered abundance (>1.4 fold; p<0.1) in aged human glomerular samples compared with young human glomerular samples. Overrepresented biological process terms are presented as nodes, colour represents Bonferroni-corrected p value, the lower the p value the more intense the node colour. Orange represents terms increased with age and blue represents terms decreased with age. Edge weight represents overlap between the proteins in the connected nodes. (b) Gene Ontology enrichment map analysis of all proteins detected by mass spectrometry with altered abundance (>1.4 fold; p<0.1) in aged tubulointerstitial samples compared with young



tubulointerstitial samples. Overrepresented biological process terms are presented as nodes. Orange represents terms increased with age and blue represents terms decreased with age.

**Figure S8: Defining the tubulointerstitial matrisome.** Tubulointerstitial matrix was isolated from human kidney samples and subjected analyzed by mass spectrometry. (a) Mass spectrometry data from matrix enriched protein fractions were filtered for known matrisome proteins. These proteins were mapped onto a merged human, mouse and rat interactome. Protein-protein interaction network of human tubulointerstitial matrix proteins. (b) Principal component analysis of tubulointerstitial matrix mass spectrometry data. (c) Interaction network demonstrating enrichment of matrix proteins to either glomerular (green) or tubulointerstitial (orange) compartments. Dashed lines represent interactions, nodes represent proteins. Node size relates to connectivity within the network.

**Figure S9: Identification of new tubulointerstitial matrix proteins.** (a) Immunofluorescence of human kidney sections for Col4a1-6 (green). DAPI stain was used to highlight nuclei. Scale bar is 50  $\mu\text{m}$ . (b) Percentage of TI matrix proteins identified in the Human Protein Atlas database and their localization to different kidney compartments. (c) Venn diagram classifying the identified TI matrix proteins into different groups according to their localisation to the tubulointerstitium, tubular basement membrane (TBM), glomerular matrix (mesangium, glomerular basement membrane and Bowman's capsule basement membrane) and blood vessel matrix in the Human Protein Atlas database.

**Figure S10: Defining the human kidney extracellular matrix.** Mass spectrometry data from matrix enriched protein fractions were filtered for known matrisome proteins. These proteins were mapped onto a merged human, mouse and rat interactome. Protein-protein interaction network shows combined tubulointerstitial and glomerular matrix fractions colour coded and grouped based on category of matrisome protein.

**Figure S11: One-hop interactors of the upregulated matrix signature proteins.** Gene ontology enrichment analysis was performed on the proteins that directly interact with the identified up regulated matrix signature proteins. Three clusters were identified and the enriched terms presented as bar charts with Benjamini significance presented on the x axis.

### Supplemental Videos

**Video 1: SV1-Col4a1-16weeks.** Serial block face-scanning electron microscopy was performed on a *Col4a1*<sup>+/SVC</sup> mouse (16 weeks) kidney sample and 3 dimensional ultrastructure of the glomerular filtration barrier was reconstructed using imod software. Glomerular BM is

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shown in yellow, podocyte cell body in light blue, nuclei of parietal epithelial cells are shown in pink and bowman’s capsule basement membrane is shown in green.

**Video 2: SV2-Col4a3-16weeks.** Serial block face-scanning electron microscopy was performed on a *Col4a3*<sup>-/-</sup> mouse (16 weeks) kidney sample and 3 dimensional ultrastructure of the glomerular filtration barrier was reconstructed using imod software. Glomerular BM is shown in yellow, podocyte cell body in light blue, bowman’s capsule basement membrane is shown in green, thickness of Bowman’s capsule is highlighted through dark blue lines.

**Video 3: SV3-Col4a3-28weeks.** Serial block face-scanning electron microscopy was performed on a *Col4a3*<sup>-/-</sup> mouse (28 weeks) kidney sample and 3 dimensional ultrastructure of the glomerular filtration barrier was reconstructed using imod software. Glomerular BM is shown in yellow, podocyte cell body in light blue, bowman’s capsule basement membrane is shown in green and dark blue lines highlight thickened Bowman’s capsule.

**Video 4: SV4-Col4a5-16weeks.** Serial block face-scanning electron microscopy was performed on a *Col4a5*<sup>-/-</sup> mouse (16 weeks) kidney sample and 3 dimensional ultrastructure of the glomerular filtration barrier was reconstructed using imod software. Glomerular BM is shown in yellow, podocyte cell body in light blue, bowman’s capsule basement membrane is shown in green and the thickness of Bowman’s capsule is highlighted through dark blue lines.

**Supplemental Tables**

**Table S1.** Abundance of matrix proteins identified and quantified using Progenesis were categorised as either basement membrane, other structural or ECM associated. A: *Col4a1*<sup>+/svc</sup>, B: *Col4a3*<sup>-/-</sup> (young and adult), C: *Col4a5*<sup>-/-</sup> (young and adult). Progenesis was used to quantify proteins with the Hi-N setting, the three most abundant peptides were used for protein quantification. Anova (p) was extracted from Progenesis.

**Table S2.** Abundance of matrix proteins identified and quantified using Progenesis were categorised as either basement membrane, other structural or ECM associated. A: human glomerular matrix (G) and B: human tubulointerstitial matrix (T) at a range of ages (15, 29, 37, 61, 67 and 69 years).

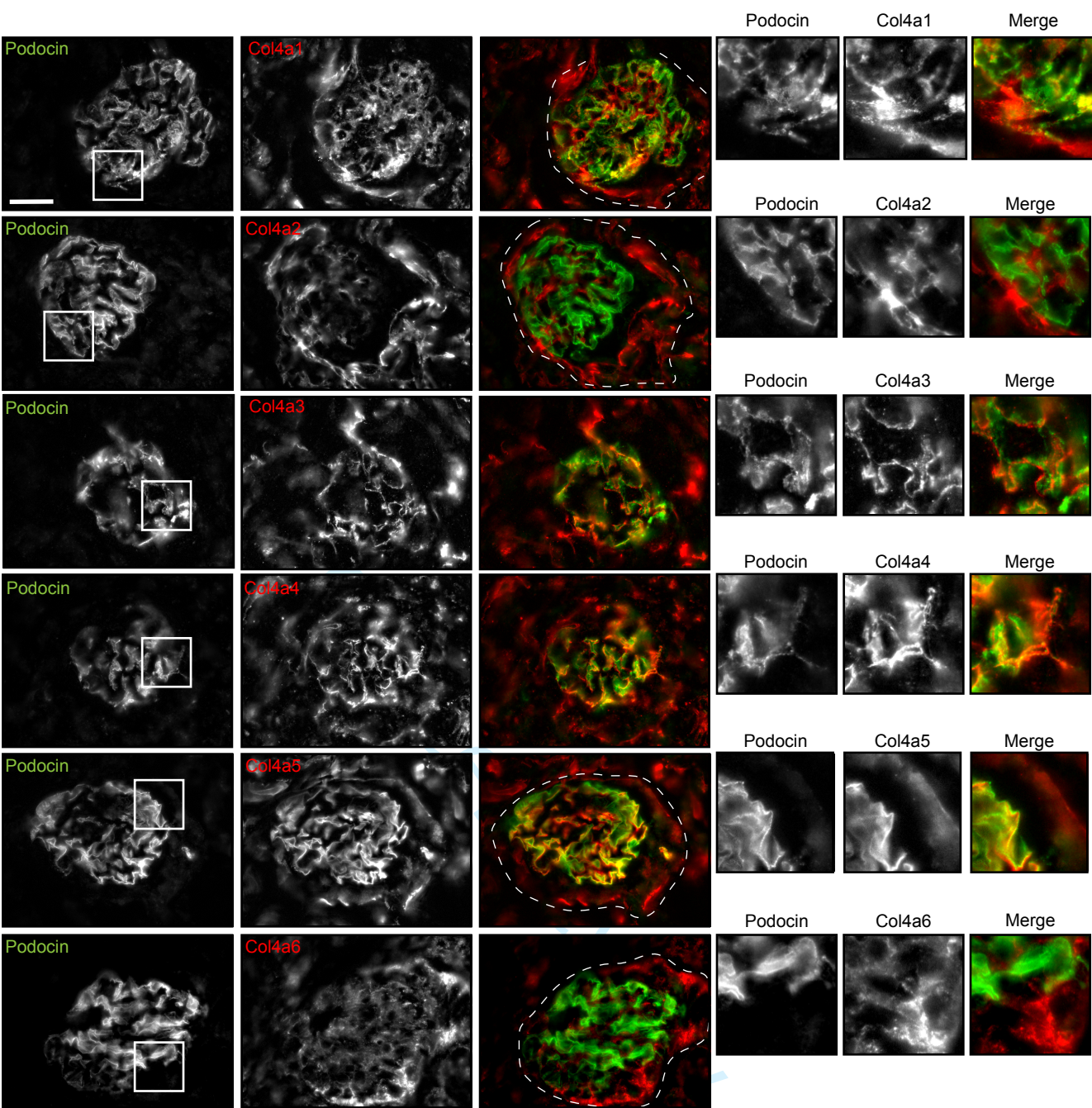
**Table S3.** Signature matrix proteins were searched for their fold change gene expression levels of indicated disease datasets over control tissue samples. Data from the indicated datasets were extracted at a fold change of +/- 1.5 and p<0.05.

**Table S4.** Nephroseq v5 database was used for analysis of transcript levels of identified down regulated signature proteins.

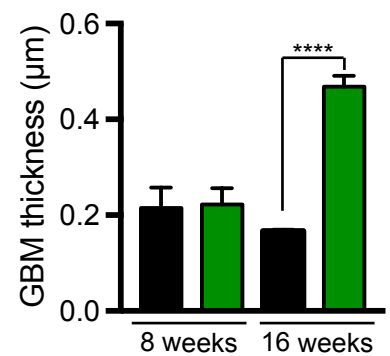
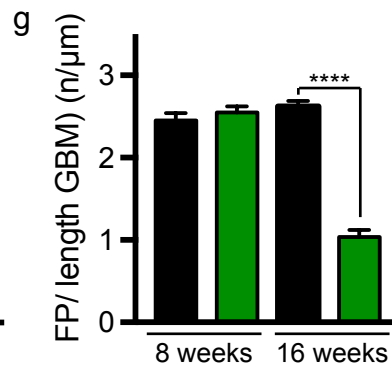
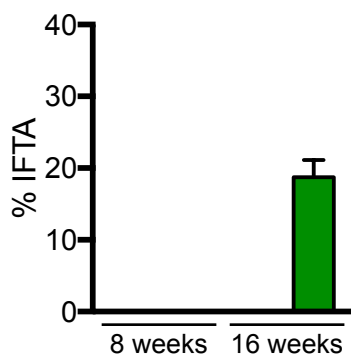
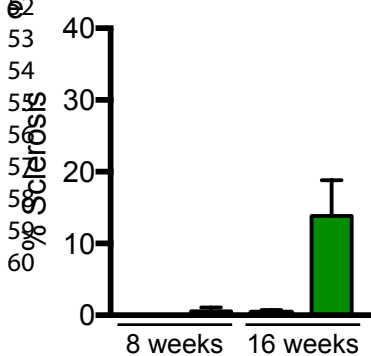
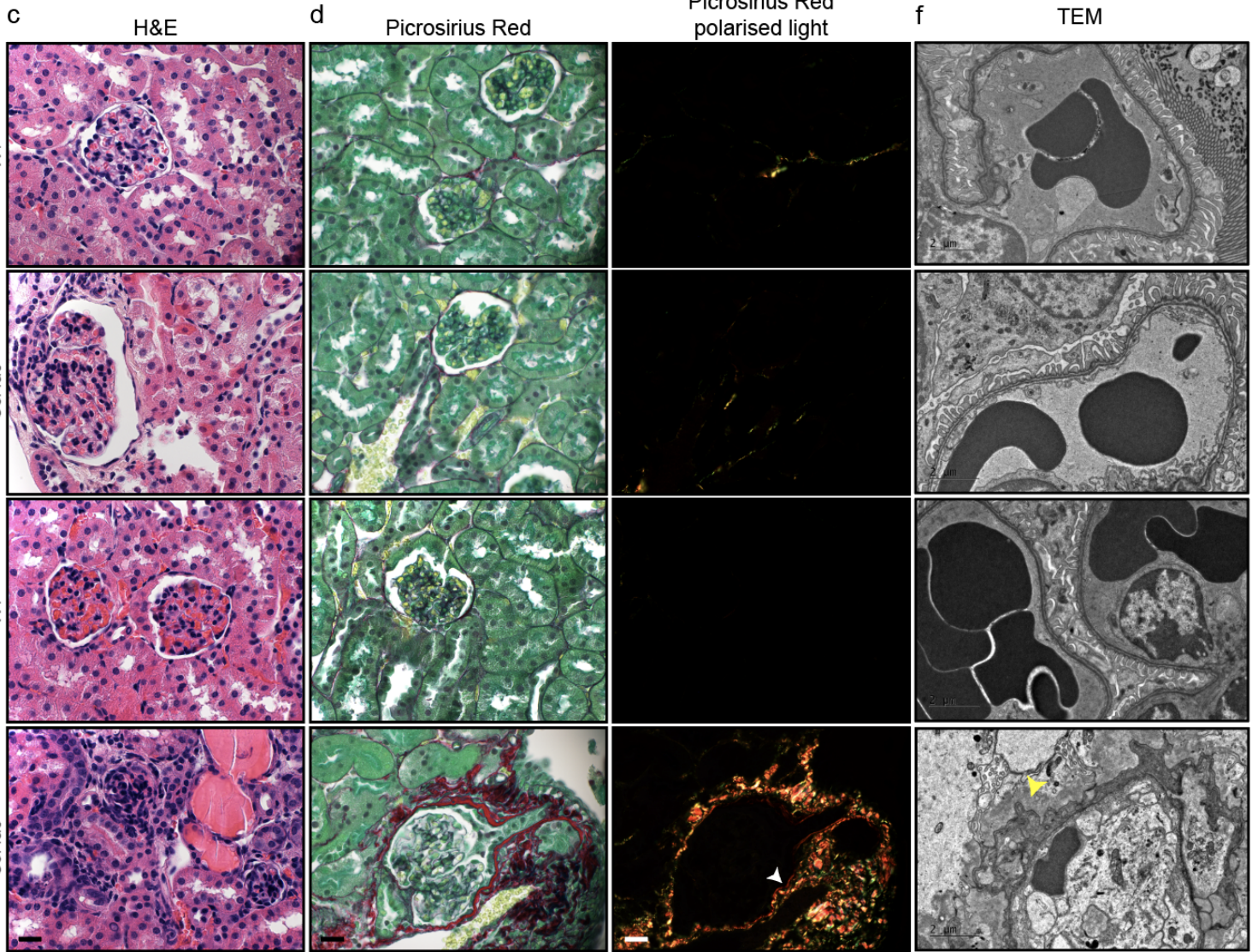
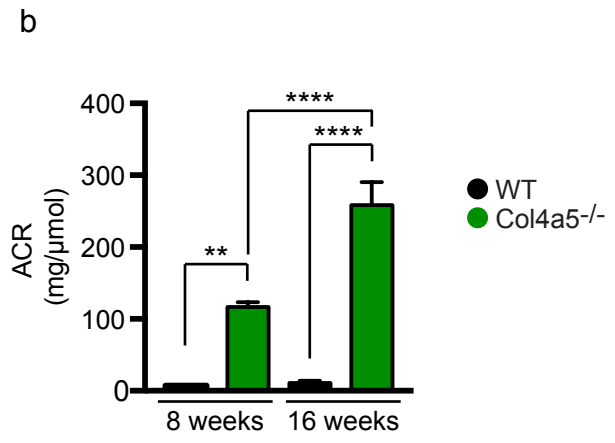
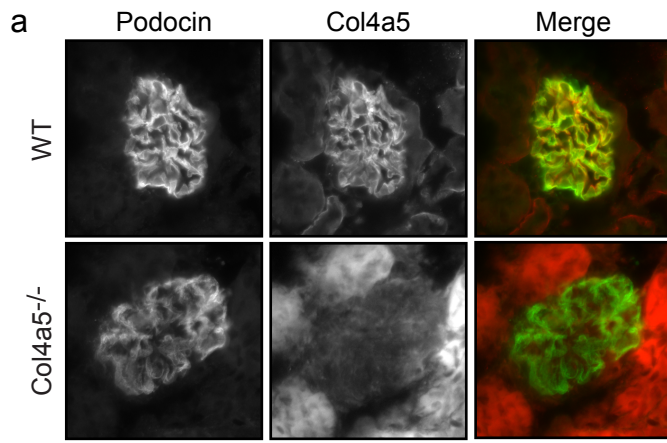
**Table S5:** Normalized abundance for all primary datasets.

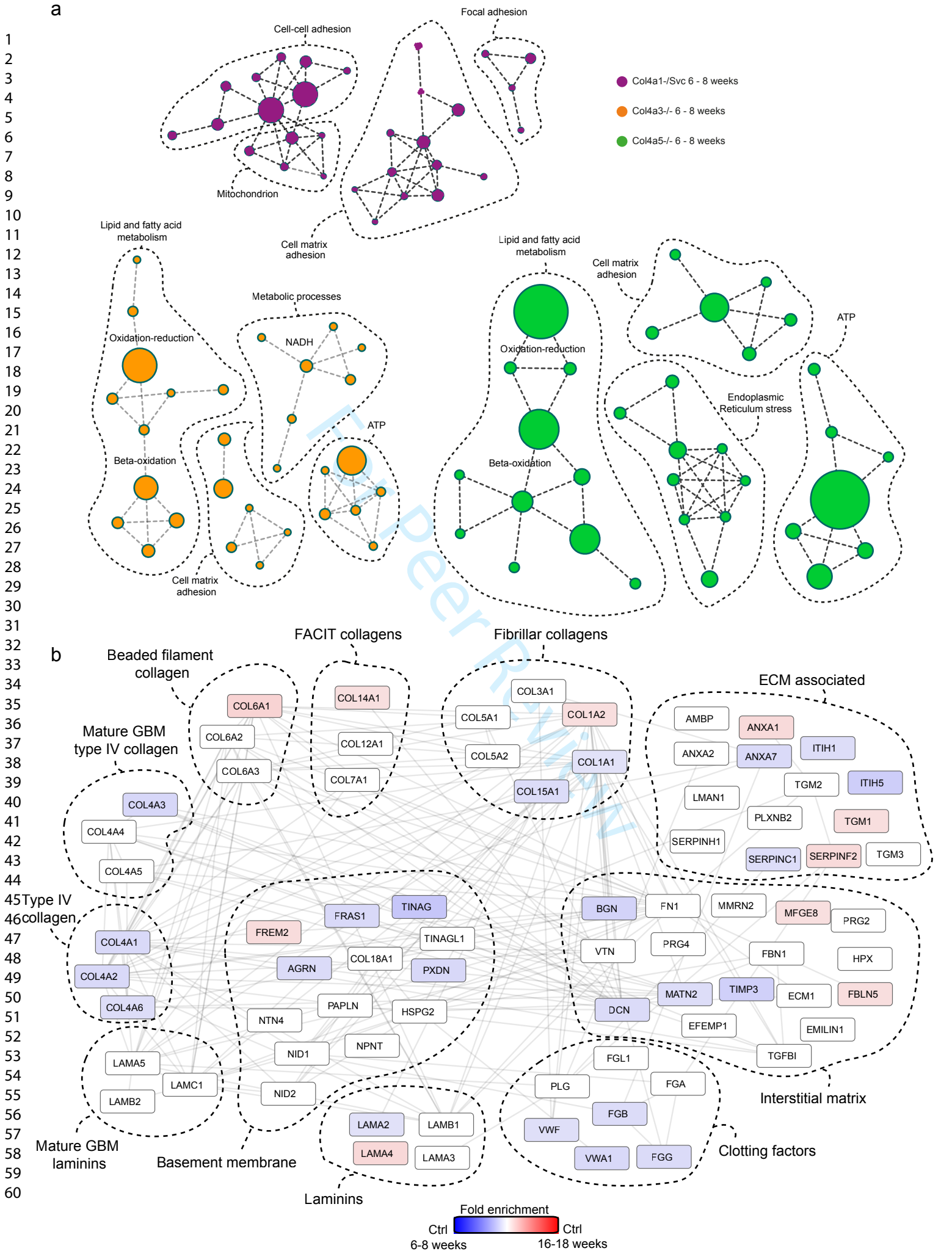
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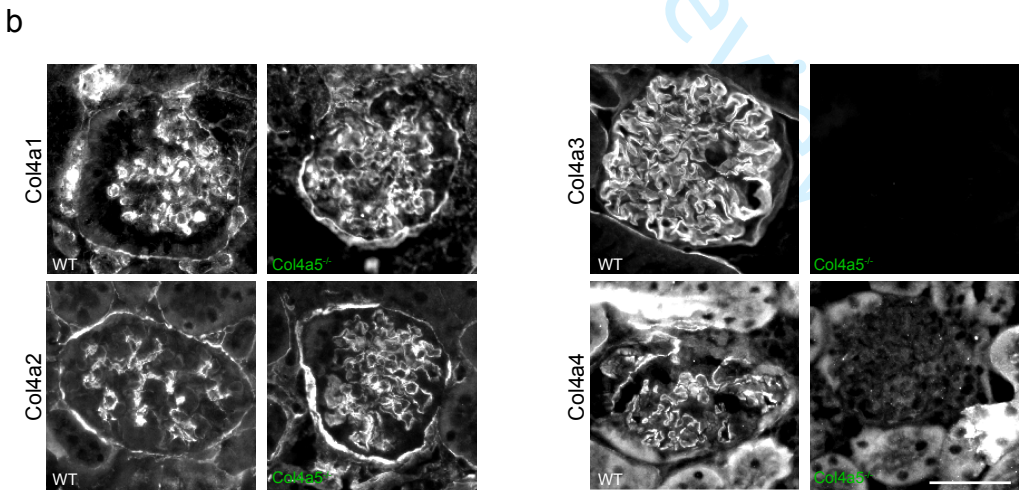
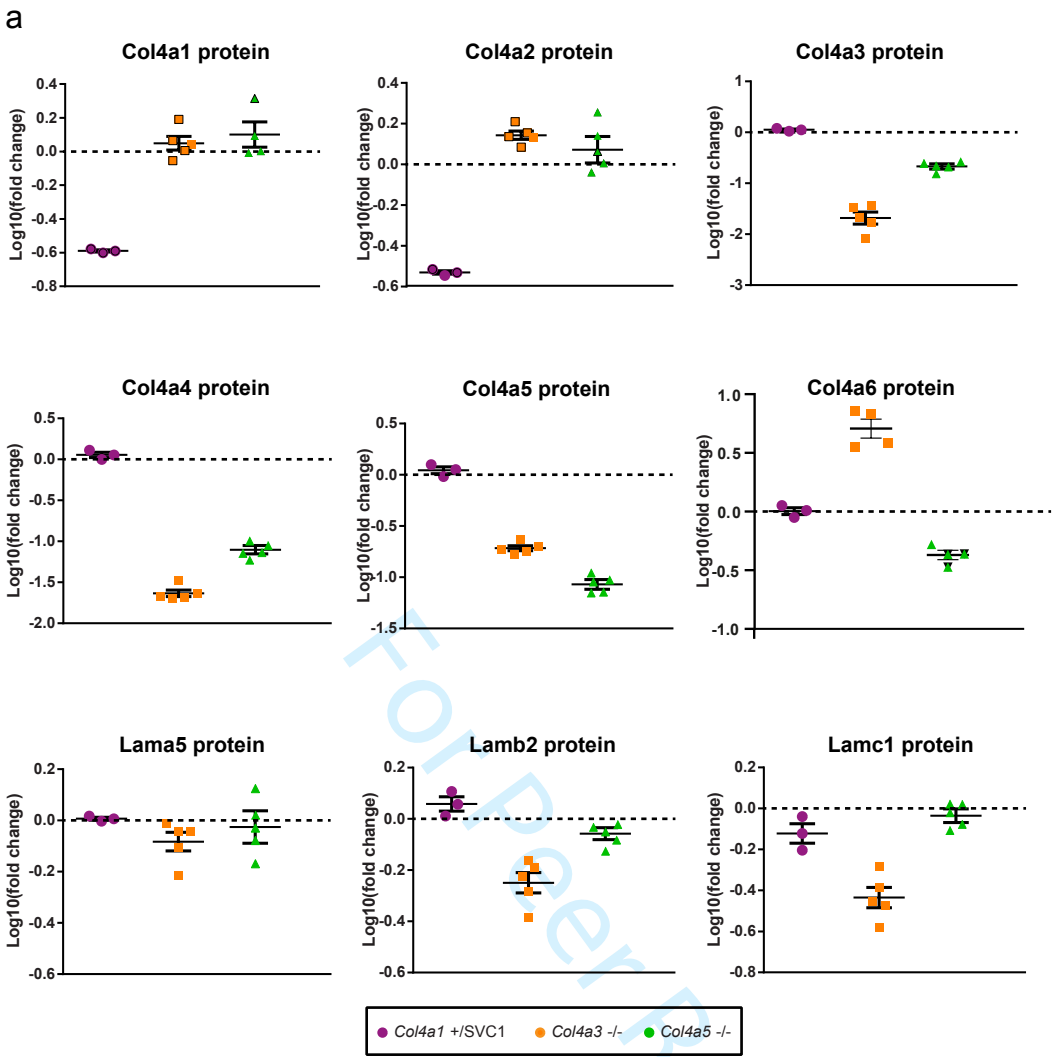


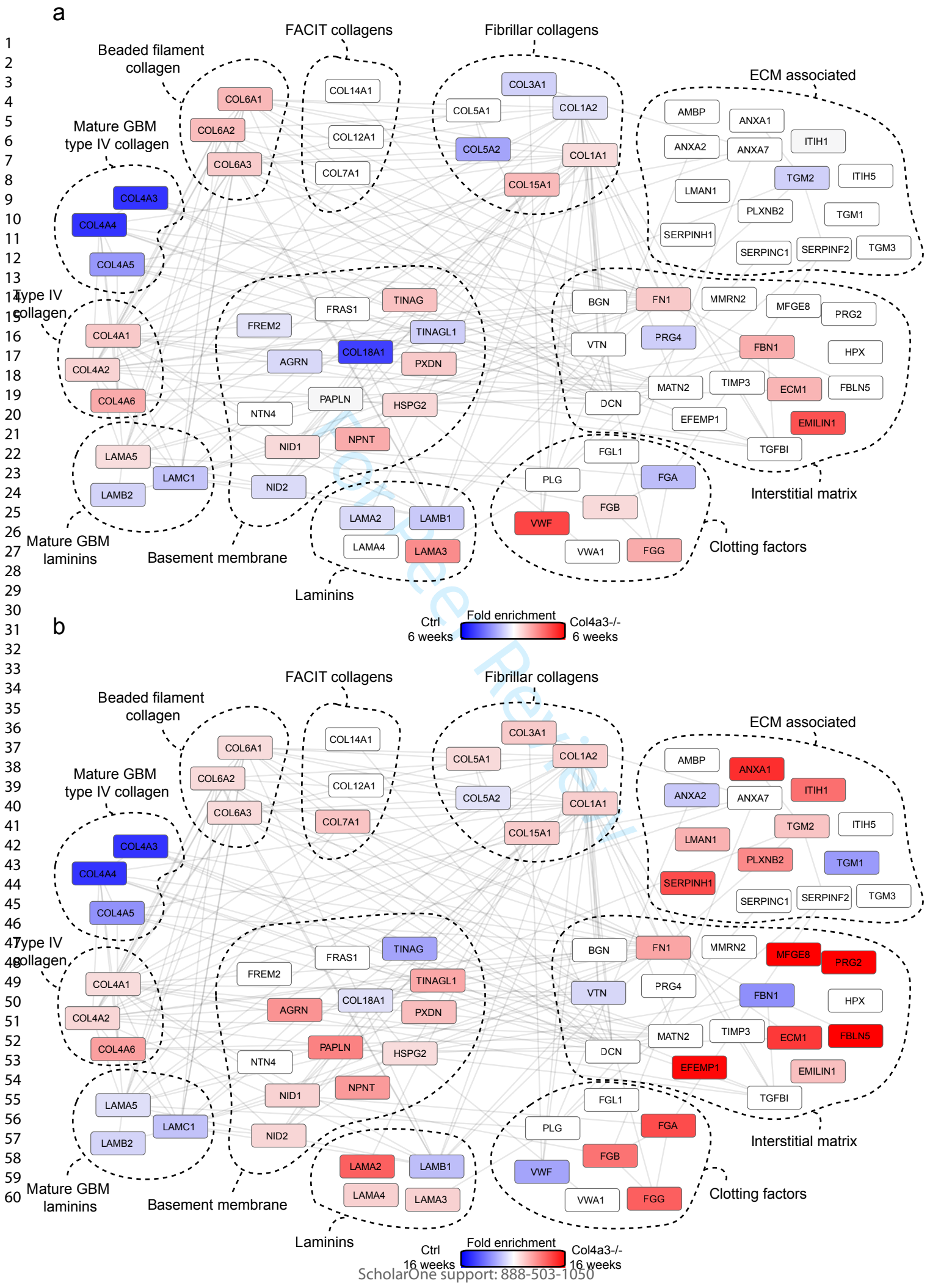


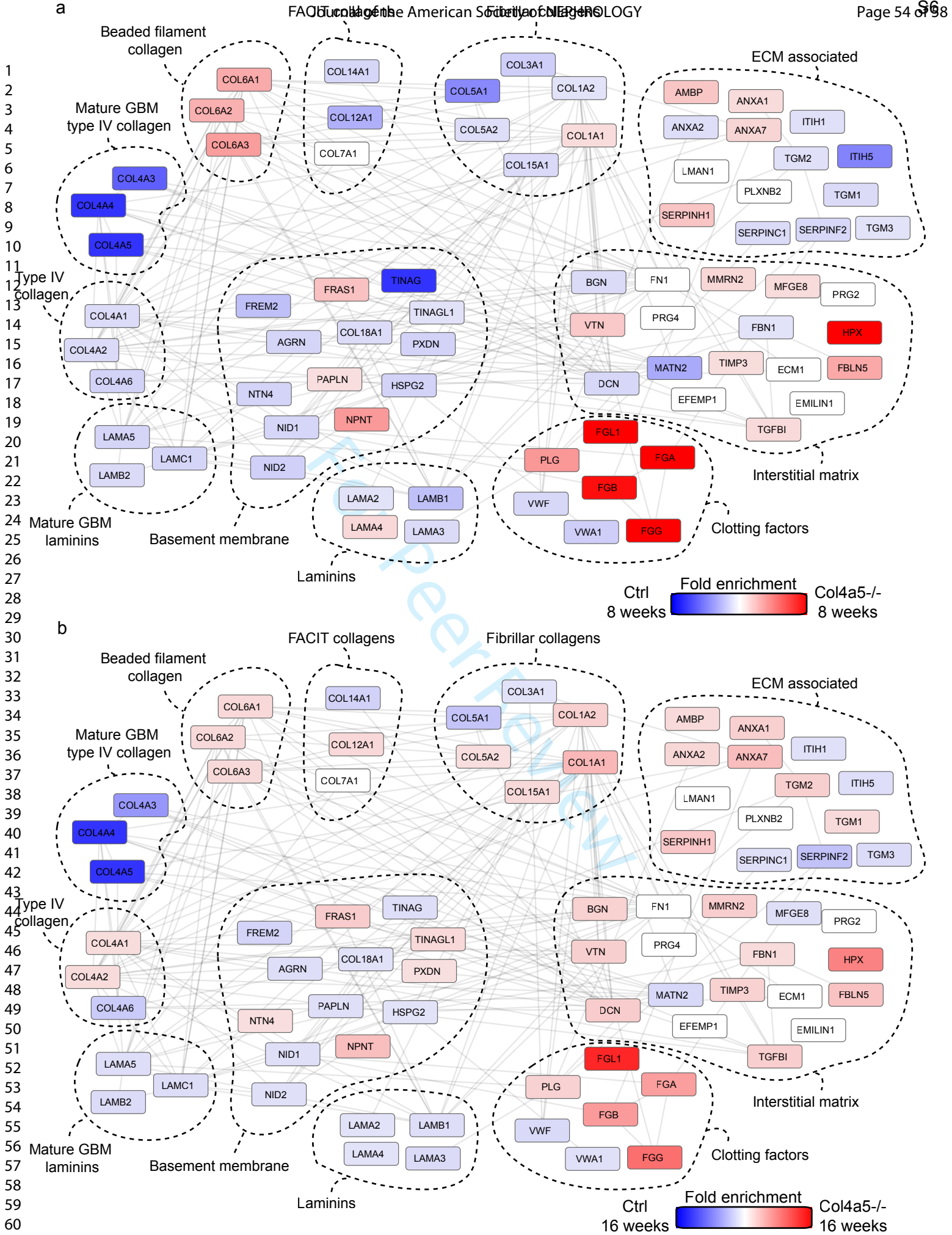




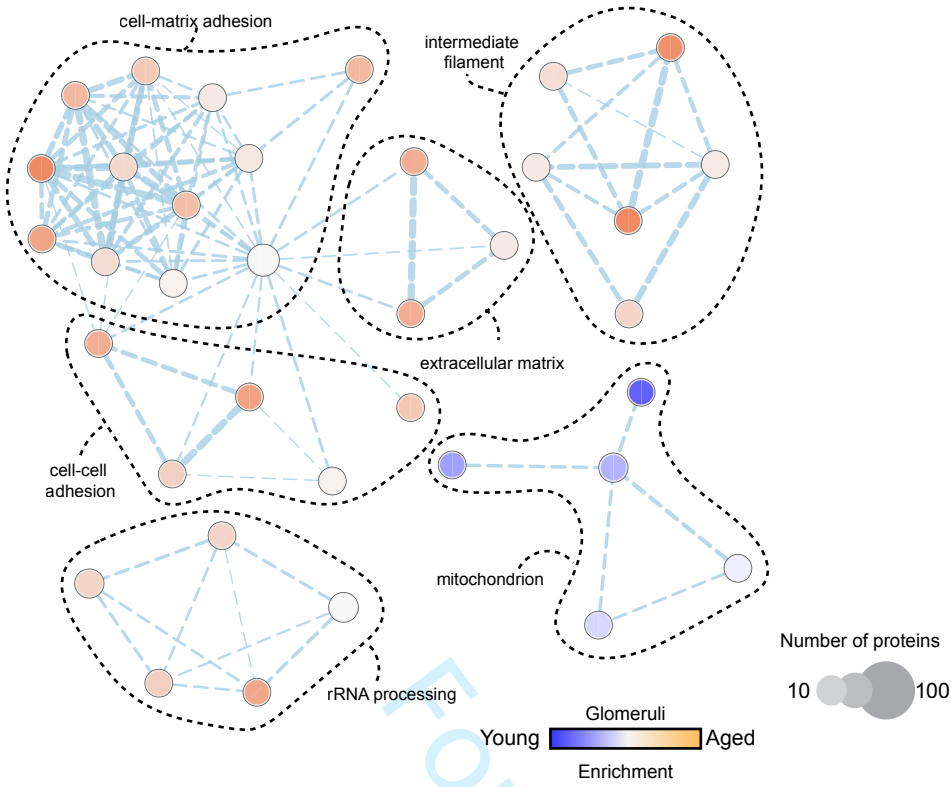




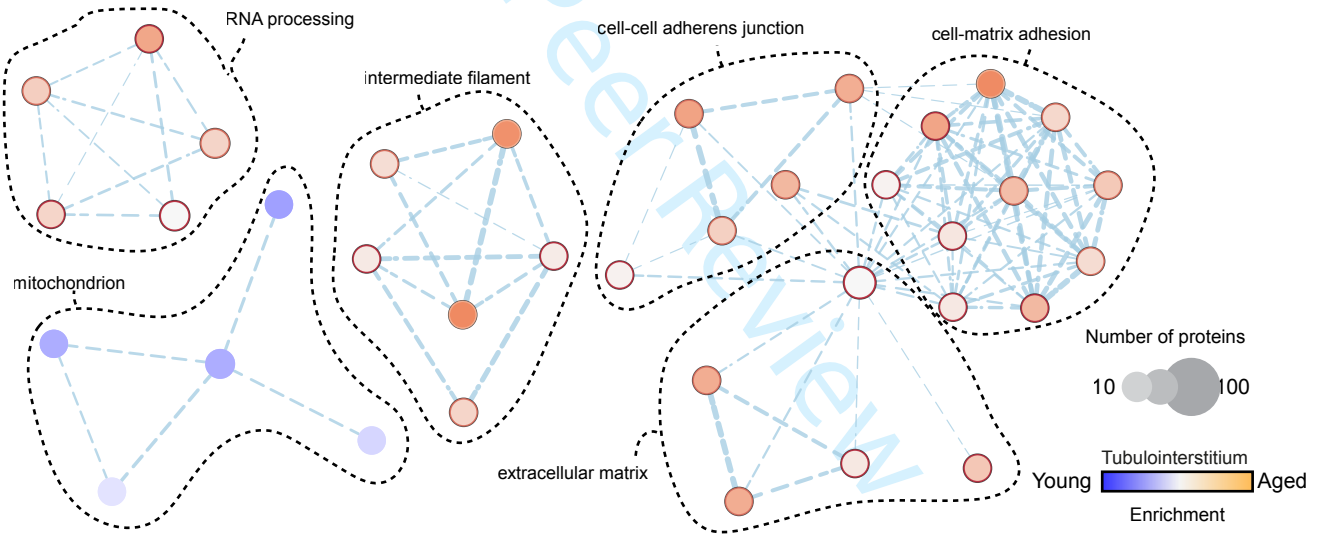




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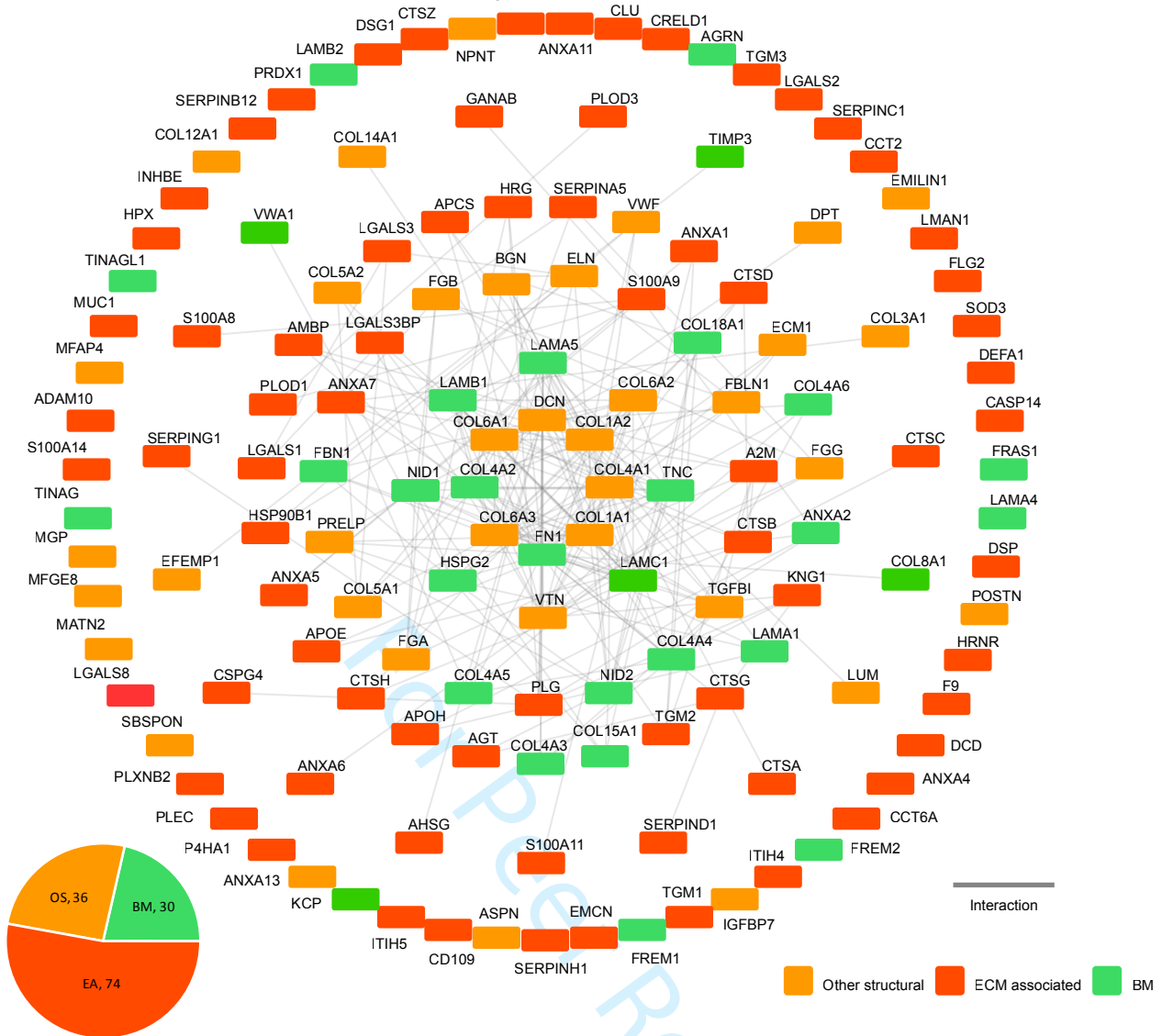


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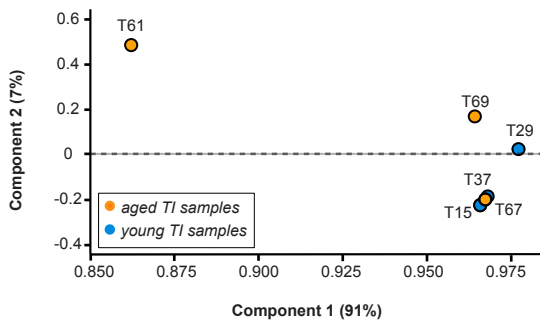




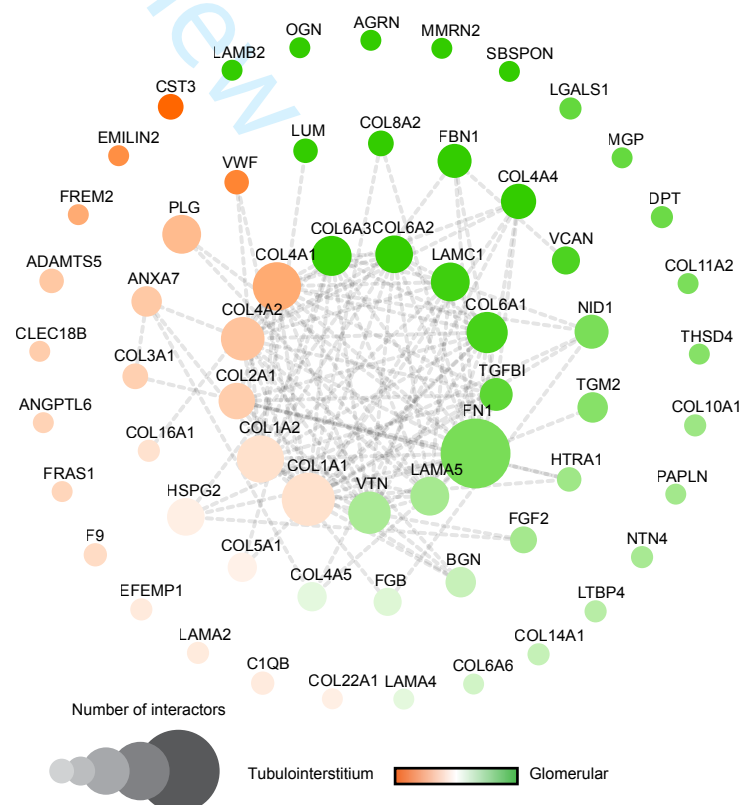
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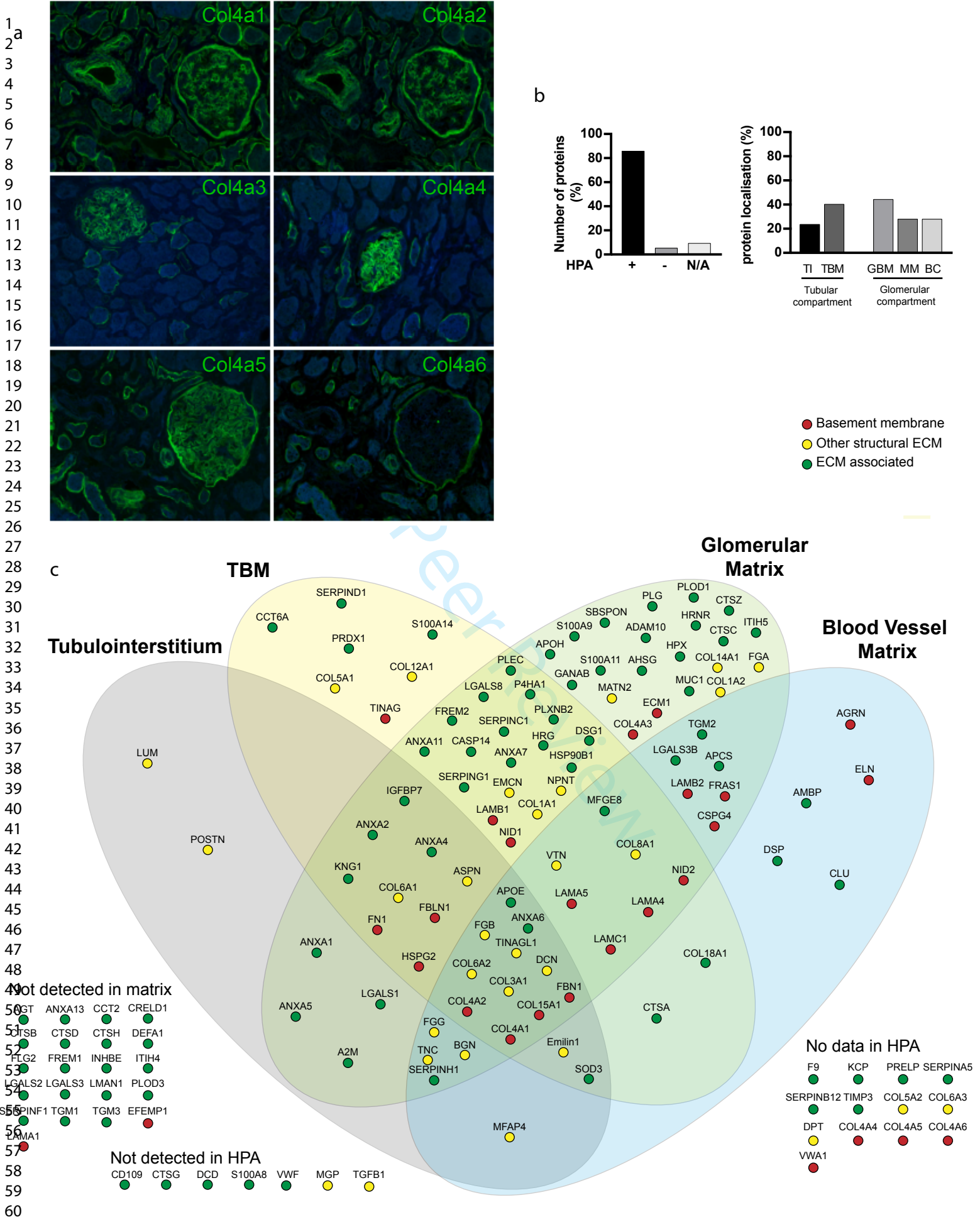
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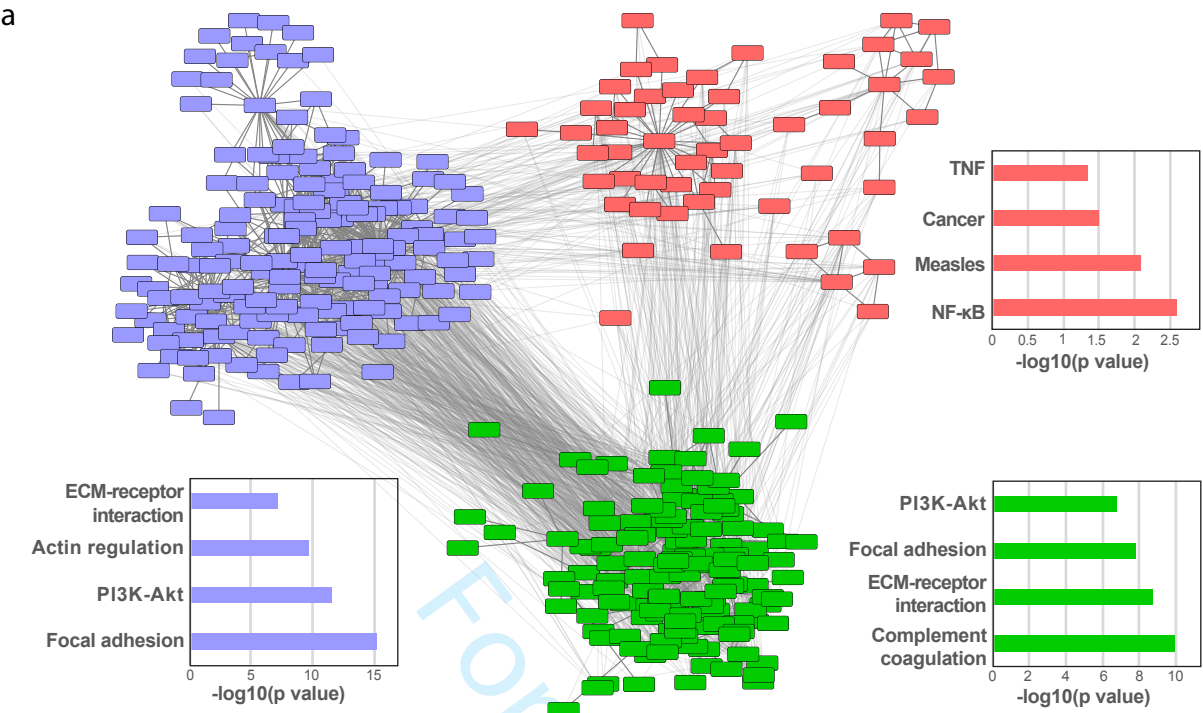








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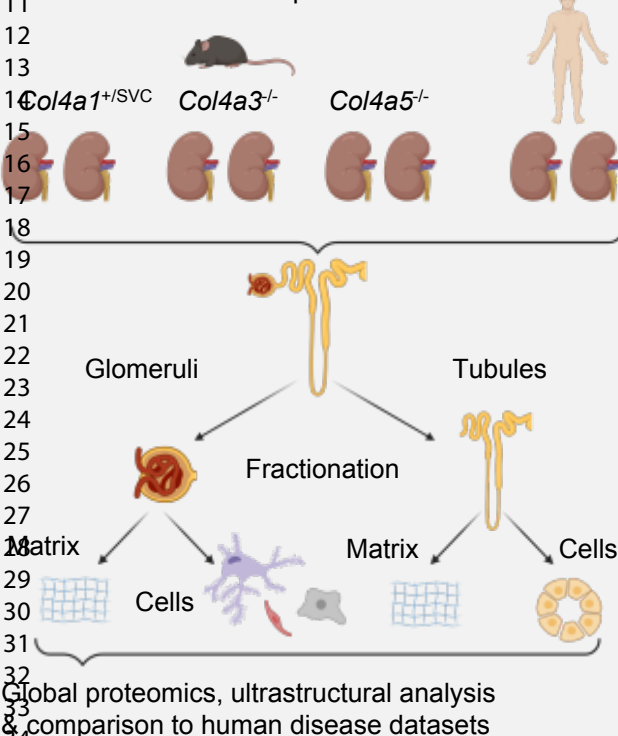
# Identification of an altered matrix signature in kidney ageing and disease

# JASN

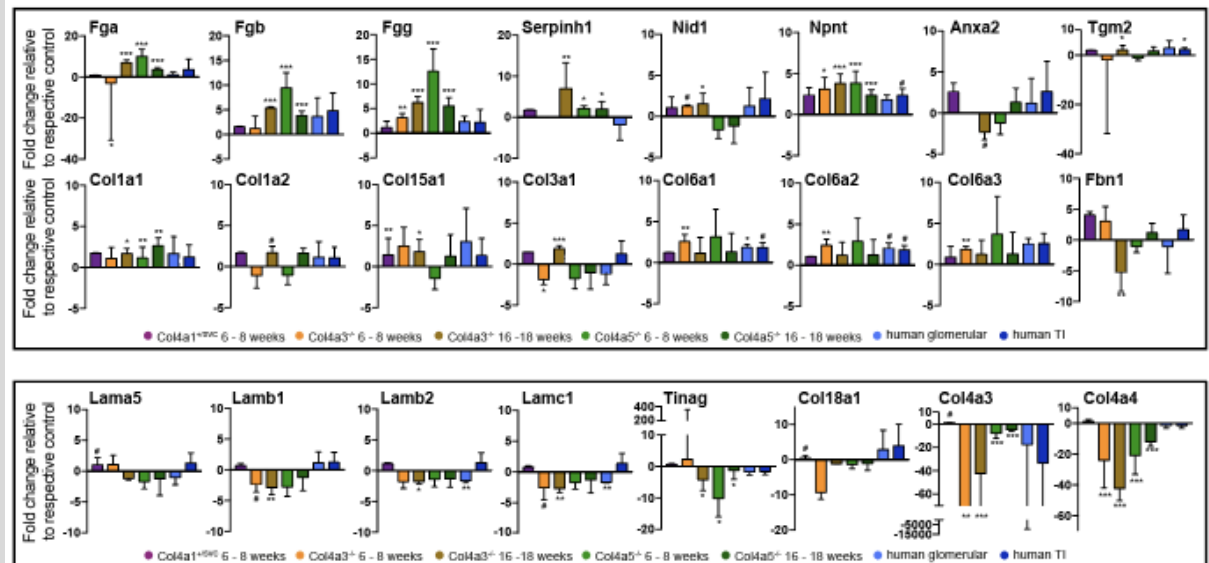
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## METHODS

Young & aged kidneys from mouse models & human nephrectomies



## OUTCOME



We found: 1) ultrastructural change in matrix coupled with altered matrix and cell adhesion in models of glomerular disease, 2) similar patterns of altered glomerular matrix in human ageing with a reduction in basement membrane proteins and an increase in interstitial matrix, 3) we defined the human tubulointerstitial matrisome and identified a distinct pattern of altered matrix in ageing.

**Conclusion:** We describe a molecular basis for altered matrix in the kidney with a reduction of basement membrane components and an increase in interstitial matrix across both ageing and disease suggesting shared pathobiology.

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